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Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum in Seoul

Economic, Foreign Ministers Arrive

SK1211045491 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0400 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Economic and foreign ministers of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation [APEC] member states are arriving one after another to participate in the APEC conference to be opened this evening.

At 1020, Canadian Foreign Minister McDougall and her entourage arrived in Seoul via Korean Air [KAL] Flight No. 906. At 1225, Japanese Foreign Minister Watanabe arrived via a Japan Air Lines passenger plane. At 1300, Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, the highest-ranking Chinese Government official to visit Korea since Korea was divided into the South and North, along with Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Li Lanqing, arrived in Seoul by a special plane.

Meanwhile, U.S. Secretary of State Baker is to arrive in Seoul at 1730 by special plane. Thai Foreign Minister Sarasin is expected to arrive at 1700 by KAL Flight No. 618.

Ministers of the APEC member states are to attend a welcoming banquet to be hosted this evening by President No Tae-u at the guesthouse inside Chongwadae [the presidential residence].

List of Conference Delegates

SK1211040691 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES (Supplement) in English 12 Nov 91 p 3

[List of delegates to the third ministerial meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation in Seoul]

[Text] Gareth Evans—Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia
Neal Blewett—Minister for Trade and Overseas Development, Australia
Pehin Dato Abdul Rahman Taib—Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Brunei
Barbara Jean McDougall—Secretary of State for External Affairs, Canada
Michael Holcombe Wilson—Minister of Industry, Science and Technology, Canada
Ali Alatas—Minister of Foreign Affairs, Indonesia
Arifin Siregar—Minister of Trade, Indonesia
Ir. Hartarto—Minister of Industry, Indonesia
Michio Watanabe—Minister of Foreign Affairs, Japan
Kozo Watanabe—Minister for International Trade and Industry, Japan
Yi Sang-ok—Minister of Foreign Affairs, Korea
Yi Pong-so—Minister of Trade and Industry, Korea
Syed Hamin bin Syed Jaafar Albar—Minister of Justice, Malaysia
Donald C. McKinnon—Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of External Relations and Trade, New Zealand
Raul S. Manglapus—Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Philippines
Peter D. Garrucho—Secretary of Trade and Industry, Philippines
Lee Hsieng Loong—Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore
George Yeo Yong Boon—Minister for Information and the Arts and Second Minister for Foreign Affairs, Singapore
Asa Sarasin—Minister of Foreign Affairs, Thailand
Amaret Sila-on—Minister of Commerce, Thailand
James Baker—Secretary of State, U.S.A.
Carla A. Hills—Trade Representative, U.S.A.
Qian Qichen—Minister of Foreign Affairs, People's Republic of China
Li Lanqing—Minister of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade, China
Vincent C. Siew—Minister of Economic Affairs, Chinese Taipei
Tak Hay Chau—Secretary for Trade and Industry, Hong Kong

Observers Ruzli Noor—Secretary-General, ASEAN Secretariat
Richard M. Fairbanks III—Chairman of Pacific Economic Cooperation Council
Henry Naisali—Secretary-General of South Pacific Forum

ROK President Receives Representatives

SK1211093691 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0800 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] On the afternoon of 12 November at Chongwadae, President No Tae-u received 22 representatives from 15 countries, including the Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, who are participating in the third Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation [APEC] conference, and exchanged views on APEC's future direction.

President No emphasized the need to make APEC the basis of cooperation in the Pacific rim and asked the representatives to hold unreserved discussions during the Seoul conference so that constructive results can be achieved for this region's development.

President No explained that he had made an epoch-making decision and released a denuclearization declaration to stop North Korea's nuclear development, which is regarded as an imminent issue. He also pointed out that North Korea's nuclear development is a serious issue, as it could lead to nuclear proliferation in the Asia-Pacific region. He emphasized that the countries in the Asia-Pacific region should actively cooperate to prevent it.

President No congratulated Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen and other representatives from China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong for their countries' new admittance into APEC. He expressed his expectation for their great contributions to APEC's development and to the Asia-Pacific region's common prosperity.

ROK President Addresses Banquet

SK1211145091 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 0955 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Keynote speech by No Tae-u, ROK president, at a banquet in Chongwadae for the delegates to the third Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, APEC, ministerial conference on 12 November—live]

[Text] Delegates from many countries, distinguished guests: I am glad that the third Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation [APEC] ministerial conference is being held in Seoul. I, with all the people of the ROK, welcome the delegates from the participating countries.

It is truly a great pleasure for me to meet you here in Chongwadae [presidential house] this evening. We are glad of this meeting, which is like a gathering of close neighbors in a house in our village, because the countries of the Asia-Pacific region have been solidifying the basis for realizing a community and for building a firm framework for cooperation. In particular, China's, Chinese Taipei's, and Hong Kong's participation in APEC, beginning with this Seoul conference, promises a brighter future of cooperation in the Pacific. I, with the delegates from all the countries, welcome China, Chinese Taipei, and Hong Kong, which have joined APEC, and warmly congratulate them.

Delegates from many countries, the world has experienced enormous changes that have affected the trend of history for these two years since APEC was born in Canberra, Australia. The powerful current of openness and reform broke down the cold war system that dominated the post-war world. The Soviet Union and all the countries in Central and Eastern Europe are transforming themselves into new countries with pluralistic democracies and market economies. In this broad Asia-Pacific region as well, the moves are in progress to liquidate the age of stubborn confrontation and to realize common prosperity through cooperation. This meeting this evening tells the entire world of such moves.

The entire world is busily heading for the formation of a new world, a new order for us and our offspring in which to live. Our hearts are full of hope that the coming age will be a truly blessed one in which the long-cherished desire of mankind will be realized. It is no longer a dream but a reality that we will be able to realize a world in which the great power of man's reason and freedom will lead history into progress and in which all mankind will cooperate together for peace and prosperity.

The basis for making mankind's dream and hopes a reality is for all the countries and all the people in the world to share the true spirit of trust and mutual benefit. On this basis, we should break down all the walls dividing one another and put into practice the spirit of openness and cooperation, which help each one develop oneself. APEC must embody this kind of spirit, starting with the Asia-Pacific region, so that APEC can further prosper. This is also so that APEC member nations share the faith of carrying out the leading role in achieving a peaceful world.

Delegates from many countries, the Asia-Pacific region, which repeatedly achieved the most dynamic development in the post-war world, has now become a central arena for leading the world to achieve prosperity.

The Pacific is not a quiet ocean but a sea of trade and cooperation overflowing with vitality. The volume of trade crossing the Pacific surpassed the Atlantic trade in 1980, and currently the volume of trade has doubled, compared with 1980.

The two billion people of the 15-nation economic body participating in APEC are responsible for half the world's overall output of production. The driving force of this brilliant development in this region's economy, which was not visible in the former generation, is the active trade and economic cooperation. Moreover, what made this possible was the principle of openness and free trade.

The overall output of production in this region during the past 20 years increased by six times, and trade in this region increased by 12 times. The percentage of trade within the Asia-Pacific region amounts to 67 percent. This is approaching the level of Europe, which has a long history of carrying out economic mergers. This shows that mutual dependence among the nations in this region is being rapidly intensified.

An enormous vitality for development in the Asia-Pacific region is erupting. This comes from the unique diversity, openness, and infinite potential that only this region possesses. The nations and people of this region, who are different in every aspect, including race, history and culture, politics, society, economic structure, and level of development, like diversity. Compared with other regions of the world, they have a more active attitude regarding this matter.

This region, which encompasses a vast continent and ocean, not only has potential for an enormous amount of abundant human and material resources but also has the strong desire to develop and use these resources to promote the common well-being.

Nations that became independent as newly emerging nations after the war jumped from the level of the poorest nations to newly rising industrial nations. The Asia-Pacific region is the only place where they are challenging the advanced countries.

Along with major changes in this world, the Asia-Pacific region is experiencing a new turning point in development. The curtain of rupture that had been lowered in the East Asian continent after the war has been lifted, and currently the Asia-Pacific region is becoming a true cooperative arena.

If the dynamic spirit that the Asia-Pacific region possesses is effectively united into one great cooperative body, I am of the firm belief that this will be a driving force in initiating a new century and world history. As the only cooperative organization among governments in this region, I hope that APEC will become the center in realizing this clear idea.

Delegates from many countries, the world that put an end to the confrontation between ideologies and systems is forming a new order with economic strength as its center.

The future of the world and mankind will be determined by whether they will move toward regional blocs that are selfish and exclusive, or whether they will move in the direction of promoting cooperation amid openness.

In the situation of facing challenges from free trade, regionalism is being accelerated today. Europe's economic merger is becoming a reality before our eyes; the enormous Europe that extends to the border of the Soviet Union will in the near future become one economic community.

This conference is being held amid increasing uncertainties in the world economy. Therefore, the APEC conference must achieve significant results in establishing the direction and role in which APEC must move for the continued common prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region and for the future of the world economy.

APEC, which has tried to find the direction and framework for cooperation, should make one leap forward to a higher level so that it can enter the stage of carrying out full-scale cooperation.

In last year's Singapore conference, great progress was made in the fact that the tasks for cooperation were decided. Externally, APEC represents the common economic interest of this region. Internally, it is in the stage of trying to establish a systematic framework for further effectively promoting trade and economic cooperation in this region.

I believe that in the future APEC will pursue the following principles and directions. First, under the principle of free trade, APEC will embody open regionalism so that the world economy of the 21st century will be led to an order based on globalism.

Amid the stable pan-global multinational trade system, APEC should play the role of supplementing and strengthening this so that free trade can be promoted. To this end, first of all, APEC should exert its utmost efforts for a successful outcome of the Uruguay round negotiations. APEC must develop mutual relations of openness with regions other than the Asia-Pacific region.

In addition to preventing APEC itself from becoming an exclusive regional economic bloc, we should also develop close cooperative relations with other regions so that other nations do not move toward that direction.

Second, APEC must play an active role as a region-wide cooperative body that includes sub-regional groups, such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the North American Free Trade Agreement. In view of the vastness and diversities of the Asia-Pacific region, the appearance of sub-regional groups will be inevitable for purposes of increased economic efficiency. However, this must be developed in the direction of harmonizing cooperation and order for openness in this region.

Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region should by no means develop into a competing relationship between East Asia and North America. On the contrary, APEC should play a central role for the promotion of a harmonious and balanced development of the trans-Atlantic [as heard] relations.

Third, APEC should reduce the difference of development between advanced countries and developing countries; support openness and reform of the socialist economy in this region; and help these countries become a member of the Asia-Pacific economic bloc.

To achieve this, advanced countries in this region must help the developing countries and countries that are trying to move toward the market economy so that these countries can approach the market more easily. Furthermore the advanced countries must share their capital and technology with these countries more actively. This is also important in the stability and peace of the Asia-Pacific region.

Fourth, from a long-term point of view, APEC should explore the possibilities of forming a free trade area encompassing the entire Asia-Pacific region.

If free trade should blossom across this region of diversity, this will hasten the realization of free trade at the global level. If all of us here agree to this kind of principle and direction, and move forward by uniting strength, APEC will be able to develop into the most exemplary regional cooperative organization in this world.

By clearly establishing in this conference the direction in which APEC should move, I hope that all of you can establish a historical milestone for opening the bright future of cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region.

Delegates from many countries, the common aspect of this world is that accomplishments are achieved less often than dreams. When we achieve what we could not even dream about, it is regarded as a miracle to us.

When recollecting what Asia was like half a century ago, we see that nations were ruptured, people were living in a closed society, and backwardness and destitution were prevailing under colonialism's fetters. To say that it is a miracle that today's western coast of the Pacific is overfilled with vitality of development is not even enough.

We did not even dream of holding such a conference in which delegates from nations with 2 billion people who create half the world's overall output of production gather together at one place to promise each other a prosperous tomorrow for the Asia-Pacific region. This is an historical blessing.

A new century is only 10 years away. The 21st century will be an age of the Pacific, as predicted by many distinguished scholars. Let us do our best together so that we may all be remembered as those who have laid its cornerstone.

Thank you. [applause]

Australia, ROK View Tasks

SK1211062591 Seoul YONHAP in English 0547 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 12 (YONHAP)—South Korean Trade and Industry Minister Yi Pong-so and Australian Trade and Overseas Development Minister Neal Blewett exchanged a wide range of views here Tuesday on regional free trade and the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), according to a Korean official who attended the meeting.

Yi agreed with Blewett that the pending task of APEC nations was to evolve the group into an effective economic consultative body that can deal with inter-country trade and investment issues now that China was a member.

They discussed the future orientation of APEC and concluded that it would be strengthened by the formation of regional economic blocs such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and European Economic Area (EEA).

Blewett proposed an eminent persons' group be formed, mainly of economic experts, to study ways to realize free trade in the region more effectively.

Agreeing with Blewett in principle, Yi expressed reluctance as he saw some difficulties in selecting the eminent persons.

Blewett, who is also trade and overseas development minister for the leading member of the Cairns Group of farm products exporting nations, said tariffication without exception must be applied to all products as rules had to be clear and have no exceptions.

"The problem of export subsidies is more important than unexceptional tariffication," Yi replied.

Rice was a life-and-death matter, but it was also a national security-related matter because of the national concensus in Korea and that rice could not be subject to market opening under any circumstances, Yi said.

Yi called on Blewett to deal with the growing number of anti-dumping suits being filed against Korean commodities by Australian manufacturers.

Blewett said in the hour-long meeting that the Australian Government was ruling on the anti-dumping charges in accordance with the regulations of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and could not bar petitioners from bringing the suits.

As of now, three Korean products—malleable cast iron pipe fittings, car batteries and sodium cyanide—were judged to have been dumped and five commodities are under investigation.

Korea had a trade deficit with Australia for the year to the end of September of about 1.4 billion U.S. dollars, putting it third behind Japan and Saudi Arabia.

ROK Minister Opens Conference

SK1311011091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0048 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 13 (OANA-YONHAP)—The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) ministerial conference got under way in Seoul Wednesday with foreign and economic ministers from 15 member nations attending.

All member countries, including new entrants China, Hong Kong and Taiwan, are here for a two-day meeting that will tackle the Uruguay round, regional trade liberalization and APEC's future.

Korean Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok began the conference with opening remarks that stressed the political will of member nations for successful conclusion of the Uruguay round and the need for APEC's institutionalization and a financing mechanism.

"We all share a vital stake in the successful conclusion of the round—now more than ever, as the multilateral trading system under GATT (the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) come under increasing pressure from national and regional protectionist tendencies," Yi said.

"In this heyday of regional and sub-regional economic arrangement, APEC must serve as a model of an open regionalism that can complement, rather than undermine, the GATT free trade regime," he told the conference.

Touching on APEC's future, Yi called attention to the APEC declaration to be adopted at the end of the two-day meeting.

"We will have to ascertain what steps will be necessary both to secure the progress made thus far by APEC and to ensure the continued evolution of the APEC process in the future," he said.

"In this context, we will consider the formal adoption of the draft APEC declaration prepared by senior officials... Also in this context, we may have to give serious thought to the need for a permanent support mechanism and financing arrangements for APEC, without which further progress in the APEC process may be difficult to achieve," Yi said.

The agenda for Wednesday's conference includes regional economic trends and issues, the Uruguay round and trade liberalization in the region.

Thursday's meeting will deal with APEC's 10 work programs, APEC declaration and membership of other countries.

Yi will co-chair the closed-door sessions with Trade and Industry Minister Yi Pong-so.

Japan Unveils Training Program

OW1311035291 Tokyo KYODO in English 0244 GMT 13 Nov 91

[By Waka Hamada]

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 13 KYODO—Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe on Wednesday unveiled a "comprehensive" education and training program aimed at fostering future leaders toward sustaining prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region.

Speaking at the third annual ministerial meeting of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, Watanabe said the plan will involve university education and private-sector internships for students from APEC member economies.

He said Japan plans to hold a symposium on the scheme in Tokyo at the end of the year, to which all 14 other APEC members are invited.

The Japanese program follows a similar scheme put forward by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker at last year's APEC conference, which features expanded internship opportunities for students in the U.S.

Watanabe also promised Japan's utmost effort to bring the Uruguay round of global trade negotiations to a successful conclusion.

Terming the trade talks as "the No. 1 priority" for the trade-dependent Pacific rim region, he said, "it is extremely important and timely for APEC participants to reaffirm their political commitment to the success of the Uruguay round."

Japan, for its part, will do its utmost for the five-year round, held under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) to produce an accord by the end of the year, he said.

Watanabe also showed his pleasure at the admission of the so-called "three Chinas"—China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong—to the three-year-old forum.

"It is an epoch-making event to have the three, taking into account the role they have played or can possibly play for the future prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region," he said.

Watanabe also said Japan wants to host the seventh APEC forum in 1995, and will negotiate with Canada, which also has expressed hopes of sponsoring the 1995 meeting.

Thailand and the United States will host the fourth and fifth APEC gatherings, respectively, and the sixth forum will be held somewhere in the six-nation Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in accordance with an APEC rule that meetings should be held alternately inside and outside the ASEAN region.

ASEAN groups Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines, and Brunei.

Japan To Open Markets

OW1311035391 Tokyo KYODO in English 0249 GMT 13 Nov 91

[By Waka Hamada]

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 13 KYODO—Japanese Minister of International Trade and Industry Kozo Watanabe said Wednesday Japan will further open its market to help the rapidly growing economies in the Asia-Pacific region.

Watanabe told the third ministerial meeting of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum that Japan needs to serve as a "key absorber" of exports from other Pacific rim nations.

This, he said, will help reduce Japan's trade imbalance with other APEC members as well as keep the engine of their economic growth rolling.

The concrete steps to be undertaken for import promotion include sustaining of domestic demand-driven economic growth and upgrading of infrastructure to facilitate imports, he said.

Japan's trade surplus, tamed over the past few years, is getting out of control again as the domestic appetite for imports flags due to a slower economy.

Watanabe also said Japan, based on its own experiences, will give advice to other APEC member states seeking "harmony" between economic growth and environmental preservation.

The planned assistance will involve joint research on environmental issues and dialogue concerning economic and environmental policies, he said.

The trade minister also proposed applying the successful experiences of the fast-growing economies in the region to the shift to market-oriented economies now under way in the Soviet Union and East European nations.

"The experiences of our region, which has undergone a dramatic growth in recent years, are very effective for facilitating the ongoing shift to market economies outside the area," he said.

Watanabe urged the 15-member APEC forum to step up efforts to bring a successful conclusion to the Uruguay round of multilateral trade talks by the end of the year.

He was also supportive of an idea for forming a free trade zone in the region, calling for an "active exchange of views" on the matter at the APEC forum.

Disagreement on Uruguay Round

SK1311103991 Seoul YONHAP in English 1012 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 13 (OANA-YONHAP)—The 15 countries at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) failed Wednesday to agree on whether to adopt a separate special statement on the Uruguay round or include a few relevant paragraphs in the joint statement to be issued at the end of the conference.

The APEC nations will have to continue the negotiations into Thursday even if it means delaying discussions of next agendas, Yi Si-yong, chairman of the APEC senior officials meeting, said at a briefing at the end of the day's conference.

Denying reports that the disagreement was caused by friction between nations opposing exceptions to full market opening and those demanding that exceptions be made, Yi said the contents of the statement will be identical regardless of the form.

Conference sources said major agricultural exporting nations such as the United States and New Zealand are demanding a separate statement.

"In any case, the contents of the text would be identical and contain political will of APEC ministers for successful conclusion of the Uruguay round," Yi said.

He refused to identify which countries are for and against adopting a special statement on the Uruguay round.

Asked on South Korea's position, Yi said the Seoul government will take a "balanced position" as the chairnation of the APEC conference.

The APEC ministerial conference, formed in 1988, opened here Wednesday for a two-day run. Wednesday's session covered regional economic trends and issues in the morning and Uruguay round and regional trade liberalization in the afternoon.

Each of the participating nations presented their domestic economic outlook in the morning session.

The afternoon session opened with active debates on the form of the APEC statement on the Uruguay round, Yi said, including anticipated impact of the Uruguay round results on the regional economy and how the member countries will deal with trade matters not covered by the multilateral negotiations.

The senior officials will hold last-minute talks on the contents in the evening and the format of the APEC statement on the Uruguay round and submit the report to Thursday's session, sources said.

On regional trade liberalization, Australia, chairnation of an informal working group on the agenda, proposed forming an eminent persons' group of about five or six experts for detailed review on the methods of trade liberalization, Yi said.

APEC needs to talk further on whether to immediately form the group or hold the idea until the next ministerial conference, he said.

The 15 participating countries will sit Thursday to discuss membership for other countries. Five South American countries—Chile, Mexico, Ecuador, Argentina, Peru—Soviet Union, India and Papua New Guinea have officially applied for APEC membership.

They will also discuss APEC's 10 work programs and adding new projects.

Malaysian Minister on EAEC, APEC Forums

OW1311112591 Tokyo KYODO in English 1105 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 13 KYODO—A Malaysian cabinet member Wednesday denied widespread speculation that his country downgraded its delegation to an Asia-Pacific economic forum to protest U.S. opposition to a Malaysia-proposed East Asian Economic Group concept.

In an exclusive interview with KYODO News Service, Malaysian Justice Minister Syed Hamid bin Syed Jaafar Albar said it is not "downgrading" for Malaysia to send him to the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting now being held in Seoul.

He said Malaysia's choice of him as representative was not influenced by the U.S. stance over the Malaysian initiative.

"There is a slight misconception" fanned by a speculative media, he said. "How can we, (a) small country fight (the United States)?"

The absence of Malaysia's trade and foreign ministers at the third AP ministerial meeting has prompted speculation that Kuala Lumpur is trying to signal its displeasure with Washington's stiff resistance to the proposed East Asian Economic Caucus (EAEC).

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed, the architect of the scheme, reportedly was "sad" and "disappointed" by a recent report that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker had sent a letter to the Japanese Government asking it to stay away from the EAEC proposal, which would exclude the U.S.

Tokyo has remained noncommittal over the EAEC, for fear of offending Washington.

In the KYODO interview Syed Hamid said the change in delegation will not weaken Malaysia's commitment to the two-year-old APEC forum.

"Our view remains the same, whether it is (trade minister Datuk Sri) Rafidah (Aziz), whether it is (Foreign Minister Datuk) Abdullah (Badawi), or me who came here," he said. "There is no diversion from the original intention of attending the meeting."

Syed Hamid also said it is "very sad" Washington seems so nervous about the EAEC scheme, "because in whatever proposal we have been so far making...the emphasis has been on trade liberalization, free trade."

"It is another forum, a consultative forum," the Malaysian justice minister contended. "It is not intended to have separate blocs or separate exclusive blocs."

Syed Hamid seemed to criticize the U.S. stance when he noted that a proposed North American trade grouping, which Washington supports, "is not open to the whole world. Otherwise, we have another United Nations."

But he said Malaysia will "respect" the U.S. stance, although he called for more flexibility from Washington, saying, "We'd like them to see that we are talking about a caucus, a forum."

Touching on Japan's unclear stance on the EAEC, the minister expressed hope that Japan will eventually sign on to the proposal, now backed by other southeast Asian nations.

"Japan is important to this," considering its leading role in the region, Syed Hamid said.

But Malaysia has no intention of dragging Japan into the group against its will, he said. "We cannot force Japan. Japan has its own decisions. We are in no position to do that."

Asia-Pacific Forex Assembly Tokyo Session Ends

OW0911063091 Tokyo KYODO in English 0617 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Text] Nagoya, Nov. 9 KYODO—Former U.S. Presidential adviser Martin Feldstein proposed Saturday that the value of the Japanese yen be raised substantially to trim Japan's widening trade surplus with the United States.

Speaking at the closing session of the 13th Asia-Pacific Forex Assembly, Feldstein, former chairman of the U.S. President's Council of Economic Advisers, said the yen should rise to 100-110 to the dollar to reverse the U.S.-Japanese trade imbalance.

"Of course that depends on many things, that depends on productivity changes in the U.S. and abroad. But my estimate is that the dollar will have to come down 15-20 percent from where it is today on the real trade weighted basis," he said.

"The 15-20 percent real decline in the dollar relative to the yen would put the yen somewhere between 100 and 110 yen to the dollar at today's price.

"Of course, if the inflation rate in the U.S. continues to exceed the inflation rate in Japan, then the nominal yen's strength will have to be even greater," he added.

Turning to the U.S. economy, Feldstein predicted economic recovery will follow a minus or zero growth in the next six months.

Yuichi Ezawa, director general of the Finance Ministry's International Finance Bureau, told the same session that the recent widening of Japan's external trade surplus is a temporary phenomenon caused by the "J-curve" effect of the yen's appreciation.

He said the Japanese economy remains robust under the lead of strong domestic demand despite signs of a slowdown.

Masaru Hayami, chairman of the Japan Association of Corporate Executives (Keizai Doyukai), proposed debates among Japan, the United States, and Germany on the establishment of a new monetary system that would prevent wild foreign exchange fluctuations.

The two-day conference of foreign exchange dealers drew some 600 delegates from 35 countries. It was the assembly's first session in Japan.

The next session will be held in Bangkok, Thailand, in 1992.

Japan

Foreign Minister Praises Bush's Asia Speech

OW1311051891 Tokyo KYODO in English 0508 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 13 KYODO—Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe on Wednesday praised President George Bush's New York speech underscoring close relations between the United States and its Asian and Pacific partners.

Commenting on Bush's Tuesday evening address to the Asia Society, Watanabe said Japan anticipates an early state visit by Bush to Tokyo because of its importance for further strengthening Japan-U.S. relations.

"Needless to say, our country considers our cooperative relations with the U.S. important for the benefit of world peace and prosperity, and endeavors to further strengthen the global partnership between our two countries," he said.

Watanabe is currently in Seoul to attend a ministerial meeting of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum.

Watanabe Meets PRC's Qian Qichen in Seoul

Reviews Joint, U.S. Ties

OW1311021491 Tokyo KYODO in English 0159 GMT 13 Nov 91

[By Waka Hamada]

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 13 KYODO—Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen on Wednesday renewed hopes that the Japanese emperor will visit China to mark next year's 20th commemoration of the restoration of bilateral diplomatic links, a Japanese Government official said.

During talks with Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, Qian also invited Watanabe and Japan's new Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa to visit Beijing.

Watanabe replied that the government is still studying the matter of the emperor's visit, first proposed by the Chinese Government to visiting former Japanese premier Toshiki Kaifu earlier this year.

Both ministers are in Seoul for the third Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) ministerial forum, which opened two days of formal talks Wednesday.

The official also said Watanabe conveyed Japanese hopes that the upcoming visit to Beijing by U.S. Secretary of State James A. Baker will help unfreeze the strained bilateral relations.

"A good relationship between the United States and China is beneficial to Japan as well," Watanabe was quoted as saying.

In response, the Chinese foreign minister said China also desires the success of Bakers' visit, scheduled for Friday to Sunday, since peaceful bilateral relations are vital for the rest of the world.

While other Western governments are moving to resume their links with China, severed after the 1989 Tiananmen Square military crackdown, Washington has maintained a tough stance against Beijing.

The U.S. Government and the Congress cited China's missile sales, nuclear technology transfers, trade barriers, exports of prison-made goods, and inadequate copyright protection as obstacles to better Sino-U.S. ties.

Touching on the divided Korean peninsula, Qian opposed exerting pressure on North Korea to open its secretive nuclear facilities to international inspection.

Such a method, he said, would compound the difficulties associated with the problem.

Pyongyang has refused to sign an international accord for inspection of on nuclear sites, arguing that it is threatened by the presence of U.S. nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea.

Advised Against Pressuring DPRK

SK1311064391 Seoul YONHAP in English 0601 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 13 (OANA-YONHAP)—China has given North Korea "psychological assurance" that it is not threatened by U.S. nuclear weapons in South Korea, Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen said Wednesday.

Qian, meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, said he told the communist leadership in Pyongyang there was no reason to be concerned as U.S. President George Bush's announced plans to withdraw tactical weapons from overseas would include those deployed on the Korean peninsula, Japanese spokesman Seiji Morimoto said after the meeting.

This indicated that Qian was in Pyongyang as recently as last month, after Bush made his nuclear announcement, but he did not say when he made the trip or who he talked with, Morimoto said.

South Korean officials asked about Qian's North Korean trip were unable to confirm that it had taken place.

According to Morimoto, Qian told Watanabe that the North Koreans had expressed "grave concern about the introduction of nuclear weapons on the Korean peninsula" and were of the opinion that Bush's announcement had not changed Korea's nuclear status.

Qian said he responded by giving North Korea "pscyhological assurance about Bush's nuclear policy."

Qian advised Watanabe against putting excessive international pressure on North Korea on the nuclear issue, saying this type of attitude "will not be good diplomatically," the spokesman said.

A diplomatic source said Qian appeared to be telling Tokyo that Pyongyang now had no excuse to refuse outside inspection of its nuclear facilities and thus should not be put under excessive pressure on the issue.

Watanabe asked him when China planned to join the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and Qian said the matter was being reviewed by the People's Congress and the treaty would be signed in the near future.

Qian invited Emperor Akihito and Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa to visit China next year to commemorate the 20th anniversary of Tokyo-Beijing diplomatic normalization, the spokesman said.

The two foreign ministers agreed to hold cultural celebrations to mark the anniversary, Morimoto said.

PRC Minister Seeks Support on Joining GATT

OW1211103591 Tokyo KYODO in English 1001 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 12 KYODO—The Chinese trade minister on Tuesday called for Japan's support for his country to speedily join the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), a Japanese Government official said Tuesday.

During his meeting with Japanese counterpart Kozo Watanabe, Foreign Economic Relations and Trade Minister Li Lanqing also said Taiwan should be admitted only after China has joined and with Beijing's approval.

Both ministers are in Seoul for the third Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) ministerial meeting.

Li renewed China's opposition to giving Taiwan sovereign status with GATT, the Japanese official said when briefing reporters.

China, claiming sovereignty over Taiwan, opposes Taiwan becoming a formal member of international institutes.

The official quoted Li as saying China will stick to the principle that Beijing is the only legitimate Chinese Government.

Watanabe replied that Japan welcomes China's participation in GATT if Beijing is ready to fulfill the required obligations. He told Li that China must convince a GATT membership panel of a commitment to first liberalize its economy.

The Japanese official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the obligations include further cuts in export subsidies and internal protection, and improving the transparency of China's trade-related legislation.

China has been considered half-hearted in showing willingness to fulfill the GATT requirements, thus impeding its admission.

In the 40-minute meeting, Li and Watanabe voiced hopes for further expansion of bilateral trade, which is expected to top the 20 billion dollar mark this year.

The Japanese minister, however, expressed displeasure at various investment requirements China imposes on foreign investors, such as local content rules and obligation to export part of the products.

Watanabe also reminded Li of the importance of paying more attention to environmental preservation in projects funded by Japanese loans.

He cited a thermal power plant project in Hubei Province, which has been suspended because the Chinese Government is reluctant to comply with a Japanese request to attach antipollution equipment to the planned plant, according to the official.

Government Body To Discuss Rice Liberalization

OW1211143991 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato in a news conference on 10 November said that the government and the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] will inaugurate a body through which to discuss measures dealing with the rice market liberalization issue now that the Uruguay round multilateral trade negotiations are in the stage of being finalized.

In the news conference, Mr. Kato took note of reports that as a result of the summit between the United States and the EC there was some progress made in the Uruguay Round, but that there still remained problems. He said he was not aware of details of the summit yet.

Speaking further about the GATT's Uruguay Round of talks—which are coming close to an end—Mr. Kato said that since rice is an important issue which needs to be consulted by the government and the LDP, an arena for an exchange of views will be created. He thus indicated government plans to set up an organization through which the government and LDP officials concerned with agriculture will discuss measures to deal with the rice issue.

Groups Appeal for Maintaining Rice Import Ban

OW1311121491 Tokyo KYODO in English 0856 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 13 KYODO—Six regional groups appealed to the government Wednesday to maintain its virtual ban on rice imports, saying lifting it could seriously affect regional economies and national farming.

In a letter presented to the government, the National Governors' Association and five other organizations urged the government to continue its basic policy in global trade talks of maintaining self-sufficiency in Japan's staple food.

The action came amid growing pressures on Tokyo to open its rice market as the Uruguay round of multilateral talks neared final agreement with a compromise between the United States and the European Community in the offing over agricultural policies.

Japan so far has insisted that it should be able to maintain its rice import ban on the grounds that self-sufficiency in staple foods should be maintained for security reasons.

Miyazawa Addresses Upper House Plenary Meeting

Reaffirms Closed Rice Market

OW1311064791 Tokyo KYODO in English 0637 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 13 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa agreed Wednesday with other leading officials of the government and the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) that Japan should not change its policy of protecting domestic rice producers by barring rice imports.

Japan's policy is to oppose tariffication of farm trade barriers, which could lead to the liberalization of the rice market, and to uphold earlier Diet resolutions calling for continued self- sufficiency in rice.

Tariffication of farm trade barriers, supported by the United States and the European Community, is expected to be proposed at the Uruguay round of multilateral trade talks.

Some LDP officials present at Wednesday's meeting mentioned reports that Miyazawa is leaning toward a compromise on opening the rice market.

Miyazawa said, however, that he will maintain the present policy regarding the rice issue, although he might take a more flexible approach regarding the Uruguay round as a whole.

Other officials present included Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato, Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Minister Masami Tanabu, and Tomio Yamamoto, chairman of the LDP's Research Commission on Comprehensive Agriculture.

Urges Nobel Winner's Release

OW1311050591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0444 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Excerpt] Tokyo, Nov. 13 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa pledged Wednesday to urge Myanmar's [Burma] military government to release Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi from more than two years of house arrest.

"In response to reports that Suu Kyi has been placed under house arrest for a long period, Japan will continue to press the Myanmar Government to show consideration for her, while continuing to voice its hope for democratization of the nation," the prime minister said.

Miyazawa made the pledge at the House of Councillors' plenary session in response to questions from legislator Tetsuzo Nakano of Komeito, Japan's second-largest opposition party.

Nakano demanded that the new administration of Miyazawa put pressure on Myanmar's junta to release Suu Kyi, the symbol of nonviolent resistance to the nation's military rulers, from house arrest. [passage omitted]

Discusses DPRK Nuclear Compliance

OW1311084591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0821 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 13 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa pledged Wednesday that Japan will press North Korea in resumed negotiations next week to scrap a nuclear facility suspected to be developing weapons in Yongbyong, north of Pyongyang.

"Japan will urge North Korea to comply with a request by the Seoul Government to scrap its nuclear fuel reprocessing plant, while pressuring the regime to quickly ink and implement a safeguard accord with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)," Miyazawa said.

The prime minister told a plenary session of the House of Councillors that he will instruct Japanese negotiators to press the issue during the fifth round of normalization talks with North Korea in Beijing on November 18-19.

"Japan gives its backing to South Korean President No Tae-u's announcement to secure a nuclear-free Korean peninsula and will urge North Korea to live up to Seoul's demand to reach the safeguard accord with the IAEA," he said.

No recently announced South Korea will eliminate all nuclear weapons from its territory in the hope North Korea will reciprocate by opening its nuclear facilities to international inspection.

Miyazawa also said Japan will have to pay sufficient attention to the nuclear weapons-related policies of nations receiving its economic assistance.

"Japan must pay close attention as to whether or not Japan's aid- recipient countries manufacture or possess nuclear weapons, in addition to the levels of their military spending," he said.

Examines Current Account Surplus

OW1311035491 Tokyo KYODO in English 0342 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 13 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Wednesday expressed concern over Japan's swelling current account surplus.

"The amount had already gone over the warning level, and poses a serious problem," Miyazawa said, responding to a question by Komeito House of Councillors member Tetsuzo Nakano.

The prime minister, who took office on November 5, said Japan must make more efforts to stop further expansion of the current account surplus, mainly with the United States, from the standpoint of policy coordination among major industrial nations.

Japan's current account surplus soared to 38,013 million dollars in the first half of fiscal 1991, nearly 1.5 times more than a year earlier.

Komeito Leader, U.S. Ambassador Discuss Tariffs

OW1311114591 Tokyo KYODO in English 1132 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 13 KYODO—Yuichi Ichikawa, secretary general of Komeito, told U.S. Ambassador Michael Armacost on Wednesday the No. 2 opposition party is ready to negotiate on changing rice and other farm trade barriers to tariffs, party officials said.

"We are ready not only to say 'yes' or 'no'" to conversion to tariffs, but also to a "tariff rate standard or a target point (of the negotiations)," he was quoted as saying.

Ichikawa reportedly indicated readiness to accept a change to tariffs that could lead to liberalization of the virtually closed rice market, the officials said. Komeito so far has maintained a policy of allowing only minimal loosening of the rice import ban.

The United States and the European Community support switching barriers to tariffs, which could be gradually reduced. Such a tariffication proposal is now on the table at the Uruguay round of multilateral trade talks.

Komeito's chairman, Koshiro Ishida, joined Ichikawa and Armacost at Wednesday's regular policy consultations, but said only, "I will wait to see what happens," according to the officials.

Armacost told the Komeito leaders that if Tokyo takes an all-or-nothing stance on the tariffication, it would have to accept responsibility if the talks fail, the party officials said. Japan should thus see the advantage of compromise, he reportedly said.

Ichikawa said he hopes to promote further discussions within Komeito while waiting for the government to clarify its position on the rice issue, the officials said.

Komeito's apparent new flexibility on the issue is expected to affect the policy of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party and the government.

Yoshiro Mori, chairman of Liberal Democratic Party's (LDP) Policy Affairs Research Council, rejected Ichikawa's reported remarks, saying the ruling party cannot accept replacing farm trade barriers with tariffs.

Mori said tarrification could lead in time to a total liberalization of the rice imports.

A leader of the LDP's agriculture and forestry division also strongly opposed the Komeito leader's suggestion, saying that if the report is true, Ichikawa completely lacks an understanding of Japanese agriculture and farm villages.

The same LDP leader said on condition of anonymity that Ichikawa's remarks only expressed a personal view and will not influence the policy of the ruling party and government.

An LDP party source said Ichikawa seems to believe Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa is softening his position on the rice market issue. The source said Ichikawa's apparent readiness to accept tariffs is a bad alternative.

Komeito Report Views Defense Forces Role in UN

OW1111145391 Tokyo KYODO in English 1245 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 11 KYODO—The Self-Defense Forces (SDF) should play a role in maintaining international peace and order by joining United Nations peacekeeping operations in the future, the opposition Komeito party said in a report revealed Monday.

The report, compiled by Japan's second-largest opposition party, said the participation of the SDF in the U.N. peace forces will not violate Japan's war-renouncing constitution.

Komeito compiled the tentative report to shape its basic policy on Japan's contribution to the international community.

The party said in the report that it hopes the United Nations will set up a standing police force on the precondition of a comprehensive disarmament of its all member states and its strengthening functions.

The creation of the U.N. standing police force corresponds with the constitution, which renounces the use of force as a means of resolving international disputes, the report said.

The current extraordinary Diet session is deliberating a government-sponsored bill aimed at allowing SDF personnel to participate in the U.N. peacekeeping operations. The party supports the bill.

Finance Ministry To Slow Defense Spending

OW1211115291 Tokyo KYODO in English 1019 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 12 KYODO—The Finance Ministry plans to hold growth in defense spending down to the 4 percent level in fiscal 1992 starting next April, the smallest growth in seven years, ministry sources said Tuesday.

The growth would be less than the 5.38 percent requested earlier by the Defense Agency and the actual 5.45 percent provided under the current fiscal 1991 budget.

The sources said the ministry is moving to tight spending on defense as reduced defense outlays are the current of times, with the United States and other Western nations slashing their defense-related expenditures.

The sources specifically cited an effort by the United States to curtail defense spending by 25 percent by fiscal 1995.

They also pointed to a slackening growth in national revenues, which has made the budget outlook for the next fiscal year uncertain.

Draft budgets prepared by the Finance Ministry serve as a rigid framework for government spending plans. The ministry is to submit the fiscal 1992 plan by yearend.

Cabinet Ministers on Budget Plan, PKO Bill

OW1211143891 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Party representatives' interpellations of the cabinet in relation to Prime Minister Miyazawa's [9 November] policy speech were conducted in the House of Councilors today. Speaking in reply to a question, Finance Minister Hata revealed that the government is thinking of formulating an austerity budget for 1992.

[Begin recording] [Video begins with Manzo Hamamoto, of the Social Democratic Party of Japan, speaking] With the economy slowing down, do you intend to formulate an austerity budget as has been done in the past in such cases? Or will you quit reducing the number of construction bonds, and revert to making the most of the bonds instead? Prime Minister Miyazawa is known as a theorist of positive finance. We would like to hear about his financial operation policy and about where he plans to give emphasis in formulating the 1992 budget. [video cuts to show Hata speaking]

[Hata] Where financial operations are concerned, since we are in a period of having an aging population, we do not think it desirable to leave financial burdens to the future. We think, therefore, it is necessary that we be austere with finances. I would like to take note of only that point at this time.

[Hamamoto] According to an opinion survey done by a metropolitan newspaper, 60 percent of those polled said they were opposed to dispatching Self-Defense Force troops on the peacekeeping operations [PKO] mission, on the grounds that it will conflict with the constitution. In view of this condition, Prime Minister Miyazawa should do everything—with firm belief—to overcome all difficulties and defend the ideology of peace in Article 9 of the Constitution. He should annul and withdraw the PKO cooperation bill immediately. [video cuts to show Miyazawa speaking]

[Miyazawa] We presented the bill to the Diet, believing that this is in conformity with the basic idea of our nation's constitution. We are cordially waiting for the Diet to deliberate and take action on it. We understand that what is called the United Nations' UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] will become operational soon to begin reconstructing Cambodia. For Japan to play an appropriate role, I hope that the bill will be passed without further delay. I am not thinking about withdrawing it. [end recording]

Bank Holds 'Informal' Meeting on Soviet Aid

OW1111024491 Tokyo KYODO in English 0044 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] Basel, Nov. 10 KYODO—The Bank for International Settlements (BIS) held an informal meeting Sunday evening with central bankers of its member countries to discuss ways of assisting the stumbling Soviet economy, a source at the BIS said.

The central bank chiefs, including Bank of Japan Governor Yasushi Mieno, and Helmut Schlesinger, president of Germany's Bundesbank, gathered here prior to their regular monthly meeting, which starts Monday.

While exchanging views on the world economic and financial climate and foreign exchange, the central bankers discussed emergency aid to the Soviets, including "bridge" loans through the BIS or moratorium on Soviet debt in arrears, the source said.

Deputy finance ministers from the Group of Seven (G-7) major industrial nations are expected to iron out the Soviet aid issue in detail with Soviet representatives.

Bank Governor Stresses Self-Governing Stance

OW1211012191 Tokyo KYODO in English 0047 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Basel, Switzerland, Nov. 11 KYODO—Bank of Japan (BOJ) Governor Yasushi Mieno on Monday stressed his bank's self-governing stance in deciding monetary policy following the inauguration of a new cabinet under Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa.

The central bank chief, who appeared after a regular monthly meeting of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), told reporters the new premier assured him that the BOJ will continue to use an "independently engineered monetary policy."

"The relationship between central banks and governments is the same in every industrial nation," he said.

There is widespread speculation that a hike in the BOJ's official discount rate is imminent, coming as soon as late this week or early next week, in response to a slowdown in the growth pace of the Japanese economy.

Doi Petitions for Burmese Nobel Winner's Release

OW1111121691 Tokyo KYODO in English 0913 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 11 KYODO—Takako Doi, the former chairwoman of the Social Democratic Party, along with some 100 women petitioned the Japanese Government Monday to seek the release of Myanmar's [Burma's] Nobel prize-winning dissident, Aung San Suu Kyi, and other political detainees.

Japan, as the largest provider of development assistance, has the greatest leverage over the Government of Myanmar, the 118-member International Women's Network for the Freedom of Aung San Suu Kyi said in a petition.

"As a country that owes a historical debt to Asian countries, we are obligated to take action to protect the human rights of the people of Asia," said the petition addressed to Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe.

The group of parliamentarians, lawyers and academics and other professional women also called for the government to pressure the Myanmar junta to recognize the results of the May 1990 general election, which delivered an overwhelming victory to the opposition, lead by Aung San Suu Kyi.

She won the Nobel peace prize last month for her nonviolent resistance to Myanmar's military rulers.

The petition was presented to Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato by Kuniko Funabashi, a commentator on women's issues and a member of the Women's Studies Association of Japan.

Space Agency To Resume H-2 Rocket Engine Tests

OW1211070091 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 10 Nov 91

[Text] Combustion tests on the engine of the H-2 rocket being developed by the National Space Development Agency [NASDA], which have been halted because of an accident, are expected to resume in mid-November after an almost three-month interval.

The H-2 rocket is being developed by NASDA as the first all Japanese-made large rocket. During an injection test of the main wing engine at the Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd., testing facility in Komatsu City, Aichi Prefecture, in August, a part exploded, resulting in the death of a researcher. In view of this accident, combustion and other tests on the engine had been halted. The cause of the accident was subsequently found to be faulty welding of a pump used in the engine, and it was determined that there was nothing wrong in the design of the engine. NASDA has therefore decided to resume combustion tests on the engine as early as mid-November.

New tests will be moved to a facility specializing in combustion tests in Tashiro-machi, Akita Prefecture. After a short injection test of about 40 seconds, full-fledged combustion tests on the engine are scheduled to be conducted at the Tanegashima Space Center in Kagoshima Prefecture next month. NASDA says that it will be able to implement the plan to use the H-2 rocket for launching in January 1993 as planned.

Toyota To Boost Purchases of U.S. Auto Parts

OW1111115491 Tokyo KYODO in English 0725 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 11 KYODO—Toyota Motor Corp., attempting to thwart mounting U.S. criticism of the increasing U.S. trade deficit in auto parts, announced Monday a plan to boost purchases of U.S. parts drastically over the next three years.

The plan calls for boosting purchases of auto parts and other materials from the United States to 5 billion dollars in fiscal 1994 from 1.12 billion dollars in fiscal 1988.

The parts procurements will include those by Toyota's U.S. plants, which Toyota expects to reach 3.6 billion dollars in fiscal 1994.

The announcement came amid growing calls from U.S. auto parts makers and some lawmakers for U.S.-based Japanese auto assembly plants to buy more parts from U.S. suppliers.

In announcing the plan, Toyota stressed that its purchases of U.S. parts have grown steadily in step with its increasing production there through various programs to facilitate business deals with U.S. suppliers.

In the latest case, Toyota officials met representatives of some 75 U.S. and Canadian auto parts suppliers last week to discuss developing parts for Toyota.

According to Toyota, a total of 307 U.S. companies now supply parts to Toyota in substantial volumes, up from 129 in 1989.

Hitachi, U.S., Italian Firms To Cooperate

OW0911101891 Tokyo KYODO in English 0900 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 7 (KYODO)—Hitachi Construction Machinery Co. announced Thursday it has signed a memorandum with U.S. and Italian firms to cooperate in manufacturing and selling construction machinery in Europe.

Hitachi, Deere and Co. of the U.S., and Fiat S.P.A. will study and discuss detailed terms and conditions in a couple of months to work out possible cooperating methods among the three partners, Hitachi officials said.

Hitachi and Deere set up a joint venture, Deere-Hitachi Construction Machinery Corp., in North Carolina in June 1988, which started production in 1989 of hydraulic shovels for supply to North and South America under the Hitachi and Deere brand names, the officials said.

Prior to that, Hitachi and a Fiat-affiliated company established a joint venture, Fiat-Hitachi Excavators S.P.A., in Turin in December 1986, which in 1988 also started production of hydraulic shovels for supply to Europe, Africa, and the Middle East under the brand name of Fiat-Hitachi, they said.

Future cooperation among the three firms under the memorandum will include operation of Fiat-Hitachi excavators and a Fiat plant in Lecce, southeastern Italy, they said.

North Korea

U.S. Defense Official's Remarks Denounced

SK1311051091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0446 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Pyongyang November 13 (KCNA)—Carl Ford, deputy assistant secretary of defence of the United States, told a meeting in Washington that it is necessary to make a "forcible inspection of the DPRK's nuclear facilities", raising a hue and cry over fictitious "development of nuclear weapons". This comes under fire in papers here today.

His blast is a downright threat of war to the Korean people, a wanton encroachment upon their sovereignty and dignity and a challenge to international justice, a news analyst of NODONG SINMUN says, and continues:

The DPRK's "development of nuclear weapons" is a ridiculous lie.

Our Republic is a non-nuclear nation and it has no intention to develop nuclear weapons and has no capacity to do it.

The United States' clamour about the "development of nuclear weapons" is a false rumor, which is nothing but a cunning trick to justify the presence of its nuclear weapons in South Korea and its nuclear war moves against the Korean people and provide the puppets with a pretext for nuke development.

As known well, the source of the nuclear threat on the Korean peninsula entirely lies in the presence of more than 1,000 nuclear weapons of the United States in South Korea.

The United States' demand for a "forcible nuclear inspection" of the DPRK under the pretext of its "development of nuclear weapons" reminds us of a thief crying "stop thief!"

As for nuclear inspection, we have no objection to it.

What we are against is not the nuclear inspection itself but the unreasonable attempt to impose nuclear inspection on us unilaterally, contrary to international justice.

If a fair nuclear inspection is to be carried out, it should be made not only of us, but also of the nuclear bases in South Korea.

The United States, however, is calling for a "forcible nuclear inspection by low altitude aerial espionage". It is a bellicose folly and nuclear despotism of those who are trying to use the inspection for the execution of its nuclear war plan, clean indifferent to the fairness of inspection and international justice.

A news analyst of MINJU CHOSON says that if the United States truly want peace on the Korean peninsula, it must give up its arrant war plan and withdraw from South Korea, taking along with its troops and nuclear weapons [sentence as received].

DPRK Said Facing 'Gravest Nuclear Threat'

SK1011094591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0837 GMT 10 Nov 91

["DPRK Is Non-Nuclear State Under Gravest Nuclear Threat"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang November 10 (KCNA)—The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is a non-nuclear state which is faced with the gravest nuclear threat on the globe, says a news analyst of NODONG SINMUN today.

This fact is attributable entirely to the U.S. policy of outrageous nuclear blackmail against the DPRK and its nuclear war provocation moves on the Korean peninsula, the analyst says, and continues:

The United States is threatening our republic with more than 1,000 nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea. There is more than one nuclear weapon per 100 square kilometres in South Korea. It means that South Korea ranks first in the density of nuclear weapons.

The U.S. nuclear weapons in South Korea are, in actuality, kept ready to be used, levelled at the targets in the northern half of Korea. In their new Korea war plan, the U.S. imperialists seek a blitz warfare and intend to launch a nuclear forestalling attack to this end. With the right to pull the trigger of nuclear weapons transferred to the commander of the U.S. Forces in South Korea, the U.S. nuclear bases in South Korea are virtually without safety device.

Worse still, the U.S. imperialists' nuclear blackmail and forestalling nuclear attack moves against our Republic have become undisguised.

The U.S. ruling quarters' utterances about the use of nuclear weapons on the Korean peninsula and their "emergency plan for a three-day nuclear war" and "120-day war scenario" are not a hypothesis.

They may be carried into practice anytime.

Nuclear war means have been mobilized in the military manoeuvres staged by the U.S. imperialists against our Republic in and around South Korea, which include various kinds of nuclear operation exercises.

The United States, while talking about the withdrawal of its tactical nuclear weapons from South Korea, is still clamouring about "protection of South Korea by nuclear umbrella".

This bespeaks that the U.S. imperialists will not totally withdraw their nuclear weapons from South Korea but continue nuclear threat to our Republic and invariably go ahead with the nuclear war plan.

As long as they refuse to totally withdraw their nuclear weapons from South Korea and continue providing "protection by nuclear umbrella" to South Korea, the nuclear threat to our republic and the danger of a nuclear war on the Korean peninsula cannot be removed.

PRC Support for DPRK Nuclear Proposal Cited

SK1311051591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0425 GMT 13 Nov 91

["Spokesman of Chinese Foreign Ministry Supports DPRK's Proposal for Denuclearisation of Korean Peninsula"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Beijing November 11 (KCNA)—According to a report of the Chinese PEOPLE'S DAILY on November 10, a spokesman of the Chinese Foreign Ministry, answering a question of a reporter last Saturday as to what he thought about No Tae-u's "denuclearisation declaration" dated November 8, said:

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea put forward a proposal to make the Korean peninsula a nuclear-free zone some time ago. China supports this proposal and all steps which will give practical help in carrying it into effect. Because this will be helpful toward peace and stability of the Korean peninsula.

Article Demands Japan Admit Past 'Crimes'

SK1211120191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1009 GMT 12 Nov 91

["Japanese Imperialism's Crimes in Brigandish Occupation of Korea Denounced"—KCNA headline]

[Excerpts] Pyongyang November 12 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today carries an article by Prof. and Dr. Pak Si-hyong who is an academician denouncing the tendency of whitewashing the history of Japan's past aggression on Korea which is now surfacing in Japan.

In the article headlined "We Denounce Crimes of Japanese Imperialism in Brigandish Occupation of Korea" the author says that the Japanese imperialists' occupation of Korea was not a lawful action under a "treaty", but, to all intents and purposes, it was a result of an illegal action backed by brigandish military violence. [passage omitted]

The Japanese imperialists' occupation of Korea was a criminal act never to be condoned.

At the negotiating table for the normalisation of DPRK-Japan diplomatic relations, however, the Japanese side tried to beautify the criminal acts of the Japanese imperialists, claiming that Japan's occupation of Korea and her rule was a lawful act based on a treaty.

The Japanese side must make clear the crimes of Japan in the past in illegally occupying Korea by military violence, massacring defenceless Korean people and depriving them of their properties, make an official apology for them and make an adequate compensation for the losses.

Only then will the abnormal and unfortunate past be correctly liquidated and the way of normalising diplomatic relations between the DPRK and Japan be opened.

Japanese Party Chairman Urges Normalized Ties

SK1311045691 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0423 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Pyongyang November 13 (KCNA)—Makoto Tanabe, chairman of the Central Executive Committee of the Japan Social-Democratic Party, called for an early normalisation of diplomatic relations between Japan and the DPRK at a plenary session of the House of Representatives on November 11, according to a report.

In an interpellation at the Diet, he said the Japanese Government should promote an early normalisation of Japan-DPRK diplomatic relations.

Replying to it, Prime Minister Miyazawa said he would promote negotiation with the DPRK with sincerity, noting that the normalisation of Japan-DPRK diplomatic relations is the question of correctly improving the abnormal relations between the two countries.

North, South Women Hold Preliminary Contact

SK0911105791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1021 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Text] Panmunjom November 9 (KCNA)—A preliminary contact between women of the North and the South for the preparation of the second seminar "Peace in Asia and the Role of Women" took place at the conference room of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission in Panmunjom today.

The first of its kind between women of the same blood in their own country since its division, the contact was a historical meeting which was held amid deep interest of the 70 million fellow countrymen and the world peace-loving people.

At ten a.m., the North side's working delegation led by Yo Yon-ku, vice-chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK, presidium member of the Central Committee [C.C.] of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland and member of the Standing Committee of the C.C., the Korean Democratic Women's Union, appeared in the conference room.

The South side's working delegation led by Yi U-chong, vice- chairman of the South Korean "National Council of Christian Churches" and supreme member of the Democratic Party, also walked into the conference room.

The main questions were discussed at the contact.

In the debate on the number of the delegates, the South side suggested that the delegation consists of 15 persons—five delegates and ten others.

The North side agreed to this.

The period of the visit was discussed next.

The South side withdrew its earlier proposal for the period from November 11 to 23 and proposed that the North's delegation stay in South Korea from November 25 to 30, that is for five nights and six days.

The North side agreed to this, too.

The sides also discussed the timetable of inspection.

The South side said that it would follow what the North side's delegates like to do.

Other working matters were also discussed at the contact.

Thus, the sides reached a complete agreement on all the matters discussed in no more than 50 minutes.

Reunification Committee Distributes Document

SK1211051691 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0412 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Pyongyang November 12 (KCNA)—"On the Question of Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula," an information of the secretariat of the International Liaison Committee for Reunification and Peace of Korea, was distributed as an official document at a forum on disarmament which was held in Geneva on October 24 and 25 under the auspices of the special committee of the commission of nongovernmental organizations for the disarmament in the United Nations.

Noting that the Korean peninsula is the region where nuclear disarmament is most urgently required, the information says in the first part that the Korean peninsula today is an area fraught with the greatest danger of nuclear war as more than 40,000 U.S. troops armed with latest weapons including some 1,000 pieces of nuclear weapons of various types are stationed permanently in South Korea and huge armed forces are standing opposed to each other on both sides of the Military Demarcation Line which bisects Korea into two.

It points out that the United States has launched a wholesale campaign against the DPRK over the "nuclear inspection" problem in an effort to isolate the DPRK internationally by taking advantage of the events in East Europe and divert the world's attention elsewhere and thus conceal the dangerous nature of its huge nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea which pose a menace to peace and security of the peoples in Asia and the rest of the world.

In the second part the information gives a detailed account of the DPRK's stand regarding the question of signing the nuclear safeguards accord and its validity.

Pointing out that the United States, seeking to justify the presence in South Korea of its nuclear weapons which are being constantly reinforced and modernized, describes them as a "nuclear umbrella" meant to "protecting" its "allies," while raising outcires over the "threat from the North," the information dismisses it as an unfounded argument.

The withdrawal of U.S. nuclear weapons from South Korea is a matter vital to the DPRK and, accordingly, it is reasonable to view the U.S. claim for unilateral "nuclear inspection" of the DPRK as a counter propaganda aimed at covering up the aggressive nature of its nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea, notes the information.

The DPRK does not object to nuclear inspection but demands the withdrawal of the U.S. nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea which threatens its security and the security of the entire Korean people, it says, adding: It is a totally unfounded talk that the DPRK is "repudiating" nuclear inspection to develop nuclear weapons.

In the third part the information lays bare the essence of the U.S. policy of "strength" based on nuclear threat.

It holds that if the United States has no intention to threaten and attack the DPRK and other Asian countries as it says, it should accept inspection of its nuclear military bases in South Korea, too, instead of demanding a unilateral "nuclear inspection" of the DPRK.

Dual discipline cannot be applied to nuclear inspection, it emphasizes.

In the fourth part the information says denuclearization of the Korean peninsula holds an important place in building a peaceful new world without nuclear weapons.

The international liaison committee will make all efforts to stir up the widespread international solidarity movement in demand of the withdrawal of the U.S. troops and nuclear weapons from South Korea and in support of peace and peaceful reunification of the Korean peninsula, stresses the information.

Allied Technical Information Accord Condemned

SK1011092491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0831 GMT 10 Nov 91

[Text] Pyongyang November 10 (KCNA)—MINJU CHOSON today, commenting on the "military patent security agreement" (PSA) initialed by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authoriies a few days ago, demands that this dangerous "agreement" be scrapped and the moves to provoke a war against the North be checked.

Noting that the tieup between the U.S. imperialists and the puppets in the domain of military technological information will be further tightened with the initialing of this "agreement" which has been a "pending issue" between the United States and South Korea since 1987, the news analyst says:

The U.S. imperialists seek in this "agreement" to infiltrate deep into the military technology of South Korea on the pretext of "protection" of their "secret technological information" and establish domination and control over it and, at the same time, to further build up munitions industries, and the puppets seek to take over new "technological information" from their masters.

When the "PSA" is formally signed between the U.S. imperialists and the puppets and it takes effect the munitions industries of South Korea will become dependent more thoroughly under the U.S. domination.

The criminal nature of this "agreement" lies not in this alone.

As they initialed the "PSA" following the "Wartime Host Nations Support Agreement" some time before, their preparations for a war against the North have reached a grave phase.

Urged by the desire to further round off war preparations to cope with the "event of contingency" on the Korean peninsula, the U.S. imperialists and the No Tae-u group are framing up various "agreements" one after another.

Unpardonable are the moves of the U.S. imperialists and the puppets to make a new war in Korea a fait accompli and commandeer much more human and material potentials accordingly.

U.S. Social Science Research Group Arrives

SK1211154291 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1510 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Pyongyang November 12 (KCNA)—A veterans' delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea headed by General of the Korean People's Army Kim Ik-hyon left here today by plane for a visit to China.

A delegation of the U.S. Social Science Research [as received] headed by David L. Featherman, president of the council, and William Taylor, vice-president of the U.S. Centre for Strategic and International Studies, arrived here today by air.

PRC, Cuban Delegations Arrive in Pyongyang

SK0911045391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 2220 GMT 8 Nov 91

[Text] Pyongyang November 8 (KCNA)—A delegation of the General Administration of Customs of China led by its Vice Director Liu Wenjie and a delegation of the Superior Institute of International Relations of Cuba led by its rector Oscar Garcia Fernandez arrived here today.

Parliamentary Delegation Returns From Chile

SK1311085191 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 8 Nov 91

[Text] The DPRK parliamentary delegation headed by Yang Hyong- sop, chairman of the delegation and chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA], returned home on 8 November by plane after participating in the 86th International Parliamentary Union Conference held in Chile.

The delegation was greeted at the airport by Paek In-chun, vice chairman of the SPA, and Juan Jose Leon Vega, Republic of Cuba ambassador to the DPRK.

Korean Christian Delegation Leaves for U.S.

SK0911113391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1029 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Text] Pyongyang November 9 (KCNA) - A delegation of the Central Committee of the Korean Christians Federation headed by its secretary general Ko Ki-chun left here today by air to visit the United States.

Economic Delegation Meets Vietnamese Officials

SK1311030991 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1500 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Text] Phan Van Khai, first vice chairman of the State Council of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, met with our government's economic delegation headed by Kye Hyong-sun, machine industry minister, in Hanoi on 2 November.

Present were the delegation members, our country's ambassador to Vietnam, Vietnamese Heavy Industry Minister (Phan Thanh Liem), the vice chairman of the State Planning Committee, and functionaries concerned.

The first vice chairman of the State Council asked the delegation head to convey the greetings of Do Muoi, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam, and Vo Van Kiet, chairman of the State Council, to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Stressing that the Vietnamese party, government, and people rejoice over the accomplishments attained by the Korean people in socialist construction under the leadership of the esteemed President Comrade Kim Il-song and the Workers Party of Korea, he said that such great accomplishments by the Korean people demonstrate their high revolutionary spirit.

He wished the Korean people greater success in their struggle for national prosperity and extended support to the cause of Korea's reunification.

The conversation continued amid an amiable atmosphere.

Pyongyang, Vientiane Form 'Friendly City' Ties

SK1011101991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0805 GMT 10 Nov 91

[Text] Pyongyang November 10 (KCNA)—A protocol on the establishment of friendly city relationship between Pyongyang, the capital of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and Vientiane, the capital of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, was signed in Vientiane on November 6.

The protocol was signed by the chief secretary of the Pyongyang municipal committee of the Workers' Party of Korea who is heading a delegation of the Pyongyang municipal party committee on a visit to Laos, and by the secretary of the Vientiane city party committee.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Vientiane city party committee secretary said the establishment of friendly city relationship between the capital cities of Laos and Korea is a clear manifestation of the excellent relations between the peoples of the two countries who have established traditional relations of friendship from long ago with the common noble ideal and it is of historical significance.

It is a great honour for Vientiane city to establish the relationship of friendly city with Pyongyang of Korea which is under the guidance of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song who is leading the Korean people to happiness and prosperity, he stressed.

Pyongyang Party Delegation Visits Lao Leader

SK0911055291 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0431 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Text] Pyongyang November 9 (KCNA)—The proposal for Korea's reunification through confederacy based on one nation, one state, two systems and two governments, put forward by the great leader President Kim Il-song is a very wise proposal, said Kaysone Phomvihan, chairman of the Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

When he met with a Pyongyang municipal committee delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] headed by its chief Secretary Choe Mun-son on November 6, he stressed that Laos will as ever extend invariable support to the WPK's policy of national reunification.

Kim Il-song Meets Dominican Republic Delegation

SK1111113991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1031 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] Pyongyang November 11 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song today received the visiting delegation of the Dominican Communist Party led by Narciso Isa Conte, secretary general of its Central Committee [C.C.].

Present on the occasion were Secretary of the C.C., the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] Hwang Chang-yop and vice-director of a department of the C.C., WPK Kim Hyong-u.

President Kim Il-song had a conversation with the guests in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

The guests presented him with a gift.

President Kim Il-song entertained the guests to a luncheon.

Kim Il-song Receives New Beninese Envoy

SK0911051691 Pyongyang KCNA in English 2224 GMT 8 Nov 91

[Text] Pyongyang November 8 (KCNA)—The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, today received credentials from newly-appointed Benin Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Korea Alavo Auguste.

Present on the occasion were Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam and an official of the Benin Embassy.

After receiving credentials President Kim Il-song had a conversation with the ambassador.

Lawyers' Human Rights Report in South Cited

SK0911055791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0434 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Text] Pyongyang November 9 (KCNA)—More than 4,170 people were arrested for political reasons in nearly three years by November last year after No Tae-u's "Sixth Republic" was framed up, according to a radio report from Seoul.

This figure is nearly equal to the number of those arrested in seven years of the "Fifth Republic". This shows how harshly the No Tae-u ruling group is suppressing the people.

The fact was disclosed by the human rights report issued by the South Korean Lawyers Association on November 6.

The report said that a large number of people of labor and academic circles were arrested under the National

Security Law, the law on assembly and demonstration and other laws last year and the violation of human rights continues.

The publications confiscated after the fabrication of the "Sixth Republic" number more than 150,000 volumes, 94 men of the press have been arrested and suppression of the press has been intensified.

Daily Urges South To Address Nuclear Questions

SK0911094191 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0010 GMT 6 Nov 91

[NODONG SINMUN 6 November article: "Why Did the South Side Avoid Answering?"]

[Text] A major point of contention during the fourth round of the North-South high-level talks held in Pyongyang last October was the question of turning the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone. The reason for this is because the removal of nuclear weapons from the Korean peninsula is a pressing question in removing the constant danger of nuclear war and keeping our people from nuclear calamity.

However, the two sides' stands and attitudes on this were opposite. At the talks we put forward an emergency proposal for adopting a declaration on turning the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone and insisted that the two sides seriously discuss and solve it. We suggested to the South that if resolving it was too difficult during the talks, it should promise to keep discussing it for a future solution.

However, the South side unreasonably insisted, quite irrelevantly, that the North unconditionally agree to nuclear inspections, without mentioning a word about the withdrawal of U.S. nuclear weapons which threaten the destiny of the nation.

This has graphically demonstrated that the South Korean authorities, while paying lip service to peace and reunification, are dreaming of something else.

The South side's secret design has been revealed more graphically in the words spoken at the full-dress talks and press conferences, where the South side persistently avoided answering questions about U.S. nuclear weapons clearly.

According to our side's spokesman, at the second-day session of the talks our side asked the South side if there are nuclear weapons in South Korea; if the South Korean authorities approved the introduction of U.S. nuclear weapons into South Korea or if the United States brought them on their own; and if the South Korean authorities allowed the introduction of U.S. nuclear weapons after asking what the 40 million South Korean people want, with whom sovereignty rests. Our side then demanded that the South side give clear answers.

The South side, however, adamantly avoided answering our side's questions, giving unreasonable excuses and trying to free itself from the strained circumstances.

In essence, on questions about U.S. nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea that reporters naturally raised at the press conference held at the end of the first-day session of the talks, the spokesman for the South side either evaded or postponed answering them, explaining that he would clarify the South side's stand on these questions during the second-day session or that he would answer them when the talks ended.

Nevertheless, the South side avoided giving clear answers either during the second-day session or in the ensuing press conference.

Why did the South avoid answering? Commenting on our questions about the nuclear weapons, not a small number of the South side's reporters we met on the trains shuttling between Panmunjom and Pyongyang said: It is not necessary to be deceptive about the presence of U.S. nuclear weapons in the South since the United States has confirmed it. The authorities would not confirm it, because it is their greatest weak point.

Even the South is very unhappy about the U.S. nuclear weapons. Antinuclear sentiment is growing among the people.

Rational men would not feel otherwise. The South side's answer to the question if there are nuclear weapons in South Korea is an important issue, as it will define the source of the danger of a nuclear war that can descend upon the nation and will prove if they are willing to remove that source.

The danger of nuclear war constantly hangs over the Korean peninsula. Its source lies not in the North, but in the South. About 1,000 U.S. nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea are targeted at the North, threatening the destiny of the Korean people.

The presence of nuclear weapons in South Korea is explicitly recorded in the minutes of the puppet National Assembly, and the United States the owner of the nuclear weapons, has recently confirmed their existence. The source of the danger of nuclear war that threatens the survival of our people on the Korean peninsula lies in South Korea.

This notwithstanding, the South side, ignoring this fact, babbles only about nuclear inspection of the North. This is preposterous, in the truest sense of the word.

Not a single nuclear weapon is in the North. The South side's babbling about nuclear inspection is an extremely brazen-faced brigandish sophistry and ridiculously shallow artifice designed to divert the people's attention to cover up and justify its crimes.

It is no less disgusting to see the South Korean authorities claim that it is U.S. policy neither to confirm nor deny the presence of their nuclear weapons in South

Korea and thus try to remove themselves from the deployment of nuclear weapons in South Korea.

Although outside forces have brought nuclear weapons onto their land capable of annihilating their own people, the South Korean authorities say that they have nothing to do with them, not even to confirm their presence. With this kind of attitude from the South Korean authorities who, while exercising no sovereignty at all, claim to be supreme rulers and responsible representatives, the world can see their brazen nature and the pitiful circumstances in which they find themselves.

Truly independent and responsible supreme rulers should defend the interests of the people and keep the nuclear weapons out of their country, no matter what nuclear policy some other foreign country may enforce, and demand that they be withdrawn.

The South Korean regime was framed by outside forces and is prolonging its remaining days under their protection and is a puppet regime with no military prerogative of supreme command. It has to follow the policy of outside forces neither to confirm nor deny the presence of nuclear weapons. Although the presence of nuclear weapons in South Korea has been made public, it is not in a position to call for their withdrawal.

In the press conference, the person who claimed to be the spokesman for the South side was asked by reporters: If the United States enforces a policy of acknowledging the presence of their nuclear weapons in South Korea, will the South confirm it? The South side has avoided confirming the presence of nuclear weapons on its soil. As the host nation, does it know that there are U.S. nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea? What a shame it was!

The spokesman for the South side revealed its pitiful position more clearly by answering that he knew it. Upon seeing such scenes, one of the South side's reporters said that he felt himself humiliated and said angrily: It is tragic that although they knew it, they are not in a position to say so freely.

The South side's refusal to answer questions about nuclear issues is associated with the more sinister criminal purposes it seeks to achieve.

Our side's proposal at the talks to put discussion of denuclearizing the Korean peninsula on an emergency agenda was very timely. It was a just and fair peace proposal, given the realistic call to remove the danger of nuclear war in the country, the ardent desire for peace that is growing among the people, the global trends for it, and the favorable environment created in the settlement of the peace question.

Our proposal was not unilateral and not something that the South side had not anticipated. Our side put forward a proposal for realizing the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula a long time ago, and we publicized a Foreign Ministry spokesman's statement on removing the nuclear danger not long ago and then delivered it to the South side.

The United States, who owns the nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea, has recently announced its plan to withdraw its tactical nuclear weapons, and even No Tae-u expressed his willingness to discuss the issue of denuclearization in the international arena.

This being the case, if the South side is interested in settling the destiny of the nation and national peace, it has no reason to refuse our just peace proposal.

By refusing to discuss the denuclearization issue, the South side has exposed that its lip service to what is called a peace system or something else is a lie and that it has no intention of achieving peace or reunification.

It is universal knowledge that the South Korean ruling clique referred to the North's nonexistent nuclear development and heaped on us war-like outbursts, like a surprise attack against us or the choice of military action, when the next round of North-South high- level talks are only weeks away.

When the United States and the Soviet Union put the withdrawal of tactical nuclear weapons on the calendar, the South side, while verbally supporting it, objected to the withdrawal of the U.S. nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea and noisily insisted that it still remain under the U.S. nuclear umbrella.

This tells us that the South Korean authorities have not abandoned their sinister intention to maintain power under the U.S. nuclear umbrella. Furthermore, they threaten us with nuclear weapons, in order to achieve reunification and prevail over communism through absorption by force, not minding the destiny of the nation.

The South Korean authorities must abandon their old habit of living without principles by clinging to the coattails of outside forces and remaining indifferent to national interests and dignity. They must truly work for the country and the nation after freeing themselves from an anachronistic way of thinking and ignominious modus vivendi of living under someone else's protection, with their fate entrusted to others, and honoring the aggression and war policy of the outside forces.

Only then they can exonerate themselves of the wrong they have committed and take responsibility for them.

Chondaehyop Students Explain Berlin Stay

SK0811153191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1458 GMT 8 Nov 91

[Text] Pyongyang November 8 (KCNA)—The South Korean magazine MAL carried an article contributed by students Pak Song-hui and Song Yong-sung, delegates of the National Council of Student Representatives (Chondaehyop), when they were staying in Berlin in summer this year.

Denouncing the fabrication of the authorities that their dispatch to Berlin by Chondaehyop was "manipulated" by the North and the Overseas Headquarters of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification (Pomminnyon), they declared: "This is a poor fabrication of the Security Planning Board [SPB] to disparage the will of students for reunification with a fiction of instructions from someone." "We have come to Berlin, urged by the reunification will of Chondaehyop and its efforts".

Saying that they can no more repress bitter resentment at the "government" authorities, who were trying to force them to become victims of the anti-reunification "regime" by playing on the feelings of parents and children, they continued:

Any mean operation of the "government" and the "SPB" will be unable to break our determination and it will rather make our will more resolute and firm.

Unless all the organisations of society voluntarily meet the compatriots in the North, daringly smashing the "government's" policy of "unified channel of dialogue" and ponder over and talk about peace of the country and the method of national reunification with them, the building of a reunified country will be a long way off.

Chondaehyop will vigorously march forward till the day of the building of a reunified country as an organisation representing patriotic-minded students that no one can destroy.

Mass Meeting Held To Welcome Defector From South

SK1311111391 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1011 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Pyongyang November 13 (KCNA)—Working people in Pyongyang held a mass meeting today and warmly welcomed Chong Nak-ho, a former worker of the Ungwang Company of South Korea who came over to the northern half of the country some time ago.

A DPRK order and a huge amount of monetary prize were awarded to Chong Nak-ho and souvenirs were conveyed to him at the rally.

Han Pong-yong, vice-chairman of the Pyongyang municipal Administration and Economic Guidance Committee, made a welcome address.

He praised the defection of Chong Nak-ho at a time of upheaval when the desire for great national unity and national reunification is growing stronger among the Koreans at home and abroad as a manifestation of protest against the anti-popular colonial fascist rule of the U.S. imperialists and the No Tae-u ruling group and an expression of his unshakable will and bold decision not to live oppressed in such society as South Korea any longer.

Chong Nak-ho said in his reply that the South Korean society which he broke with, disillusioned, is a mucky society where the working people have to die while suffering from unbearable toil and maltreatment as objects of exploitation and oppression.

The North is an earthly paradise of wonders, he pointed out, and continued:

I felt as if in a dream, seeing the reality of the North where workers like me become deputies to the Supreme People's Assembly to discuss policies of the country or heroes blessed by all people.

The great President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Mr. Kim Chong-il who provide all people with stable jobs and let them enjoy all happiness with free medical assistance and free education, not knowing what a tax is like, and have made the people happy and dignified people envied by all peoples around the world are true fathers and the sun of all our people.

O Chin-u Attends Army Company Commanders' Forum

SK1211121891 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1020 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Pyongyang November 12 (KCNA)—A meeting of company commanders of the Korean People's Army [KPA] opened here today.

The meeting will review the work of implementing the teachings of the great leader President Kim Il-song and the party's policy of strengthening the KPA companies and discuss tasks to further develop the KPA into revolutionary armed forces of chuche by consolidating it politically and militarily in compliance with the requirements of modelling the whole Army on the chuche idea.

The meeting was attended by O Chin-u, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee [C.C.] of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK], vice-chairman of the Defence Committee of the DPRK, member of the party Central Military Committee and minister of People's Armed Forces; and Choe Kwang, member of the Political Bureau of the C.C., WPK, vice-chairman of the Defence Committee of the DPRK, member of the party Central Military Committee and chief of general staff of the Korean People's Army.

A congratulatory message of the C.C., WPK to the participants in the meeting was read by O Chin-u.

The message said the company commanders of the KPA have performed great feats for the country and the people in the past by striving with all efforts and wisdom to implement the party's policy of strengthening the companies under the wise guidance of the party and the leader.

It is a great honour and pride of our People's Army that it has admirable commanding officers who remain boundlessly loyal to the party and the leader, fighting valiantly by displaying heroism and self-sacrificing spirit for the country and the people, it stressed, adding:

The WPK Central Committee notes with high appreciation that the company commanders of the People's Army have consolidated their companies into invincible fighting ranks by discharging with credit their noble duty to the party and the revolution, and thus made great contributions to the acceleration the work of modelling the whole army on the chuche idea.

The message stressed the need for the KPA company commanders to firmly build up all the companies into steel-like fighting ranks capable of defeating any enemy and thus successfully fulfil their honourable mission of upholding the cause of the party, the cause of socialism with arms.

Choe Kwang made a report at the meeting.

He pointed out that, basing himself on the chuche-based military idea, already long ago, the great leader comrade Kim Il-song advanced the unique idea that strengthening the company is the main link in the work of strengthening the whole Army, and defined the company as a cell of revolutionary armed forces, as the basic unit of battle, clearly indicated tasks and ways of strengthening the company and has wisely led the efforts to this end.

He recalled that dear Comrade Kim Chong-il clearly indicated the height of the ideological and moral traits to be attained by soldiers by putting up the slogan of loyalty "Let us fight with the dedication of our lives for the great leader!" before the People's Army in compliance with the requirements of a new higher stage where the modelling of the whole army on the chuche idea has been brought to the fore, and has energetically led the companies to unremittingly push ahead with human and ideological remoulding.

The reporter laid emphasis on the need for the company commanders to bend vigorous efforts to make their companies steel-like combutant ranks of chuche-type revolutionary soldiers who uphold the ideas and leadership of the party and the leader with loyalty and to further strengthen them in military technique.

His report was followed by speeches.

A congratulatory group of KPA heroes and a congratulatory group of pupils of the Mangyongdae Revolutionary School entered the meeting hall and recited congratulatory messages.

The meeting continues.

Kim Il-song Meets Commanders

SK1311060191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0457 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Excerpts] Pyongyang November 13 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song met and congratulated the participants in the meeting of company commanders of the Korean People's Army [KPA] on November 11. [passage omitted]

President Kim Il-song congratulated the participants in the meeting of company commanders of the KPA upon their great contribution to building the whole army into revolutionary armed forces of chuche by performing with credit their noble duties for the party and the revolution upholding our party's military line, before posing for a photograph with them.

He gave highly important teachings which will be a guideline in increasing the combat capacity of companies of the KPA.

The entire participants in the meeting are filled with the firm determination to firmly guarantee the cause of socialism, our party's cause, by force of arms by building their companies, basic combat units of the People's Army, into a-match-for-a-hundred combat ranks intensely loyal to the party and the leader.

Meeting Closes

SK1311110691 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1004 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Pyongyang November 13 (KCNA)—The meeting of company commanders of the Korean People's Army (KPA) which opened here Tuesday [12 November] closed today.

Prior to the closure of the meeting, officer of the KPA Kim U- chin who was a company commander during the Fatherland Liberation War and company commanders took floor.

The speakers said the companies of the KPA have become invincible militant units and the whole army has been strengthened and developed into ever-victorious revolutionary forces of chuche type under the wise guidance and deep care of the party and the leader and, in this course, the company commanders have become true revolutionary commanders.

They noted that the company commanders, together with company political organizers, have made strenuous efforts to push ahead with the revolutionization of companies and rear the party members and armymen to be faithful and devoted to the party and the leader and built up their companies as a-match-for-a-hundred militant units fully prepared militarily and technically.

We are fully prepared to defeat the enemy if they provoke us, by completing the combat organization of the companies, taking a good care of weapons and combat and technical equipment and consolidating the posts and positions as impregnable fortress as required by the present situation in which the aggressive and belligerent moves of the enemy have been intensified still further, they said, and added:

We will educate the soldiers to fully discharge their duty and mission as soldiers of a true revolutionary army of the people and encourage them to defend the lives and properties of the people at the cost of their lives and devotedly fight for the motherland and the happiness of the people, linking their destiny with that of the people and the country.

We will as ever discharge our mission and duty for the party and the revolution, for the country and the people in strengthening our People's Army to be revolutionary armed forces of chuche and accomplishing the socialist cause, they stressed:

A congratulatory group of the Korean Children's Union read a congratulatory letter addressed to the meeting of company commanders.

Conveyed at the meeting were silk banners, comfort goods and letters sent to the meeting and model companies of three services including the Kim Kwang-chol company by the Central Committee of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea, the Korean Children's Union and students and school children throughout the country.

A letter of pledge was adopted at the meeting.

Nation Urged To Support Coal Production

SK0811130191 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0008 GMT 4 Nov 91

[NODONG SINMUN 4 Nov editorial: "All Sectors Should More Vigorously Support Coal Mines"]

[Text] Cherishing in their hearts the great pride and dignity arrived from carrying out the revolution under the wise leadership of the party and the leader, today all party members and the working people all over the country are vigorously conducting an all-people march campaign to further illuminate socialism of our own style.

Thanks to the heroic struggle of our working class, working people, and soldiers of the People's Army to carry the 1990s' second combat to victory, an upsurge is being constantly effected in production and construction.

We should make efforts to epochally increase coal production by giving priority to extraction within the coal industry sector. This is the first step in increasing production and developing this sector of the national economy. This is also a demand of our reality.

To effect an upsurge in coal production, relevant sectors and units should properly provide coal mines with necessary facilities and materials. To this end, all the party, country, and people should vigorously support coal mines by all means.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has indicated: We should never destroy the system that gives the first priority to guaranteeing the facilities and materials needed for coal production. We should first provide for coal mines, and then other sectors. We should continue to maintain this principle.

At an early date, our party, fully aware of the importance and significance of coal production to develop the overall national economy and to improve the people's standard of living, took steps to give priority to providing coal mines with the facilities and materials needed for production.

Our party also has ensured that this principle is maintained under all circumstances and that all the party, country, and people should positively support coal mines with materials, technology, and efforts.

During the past years, our country's economy has been constantly and speedily developed. This resulted from our party's wise step. In addition, all the party, country, and people, in upholding the party's call, should properly support coal mines to constantly increase production.

Our party's consistent policy is to firmly give priority to extraction over processing. Only when we—by giving priority to extraction—settle the question of raw materials and fuel can we not only normalize production at a higher level in all sectors of the national economy, but also rapidly improve the people's standard of living.

Coal is the important raw material and fuel of our country's chuche industry. Increasing coal production is always important throughout socialist construction. Furthermore, it is a more pressing task today.

Only when we rapidly increase coal production can we properly operate power stations. As a result, we can operate plants and enterprises at full capacity.

Ultimately, increasing coal production is a lifeline to rapidly develop the country's overall economy and to further settle the question of the people's life. Coal miners should responsibly carry out the revolutionary tasks assigned them to further produce coal. In addition, relevant sectors and units, which provide coal mines with facilities and materials, should jointly effect an innovation.

Coal production is a hard and complex work, regarding the nature as its target for struggle. The basic revolutionary task assigned to coal miners is to properly carry out coal production, utilizing the machine facilities and materials provided by relevant sectors and units.

The facilities and materials needed for coal production should be produced and provided by relevant sectors and units. This is a prerequisite to coal production.

If all sectors and units only want coal without providing coal mines with the necessary facilities and materials in a timely manner, it cannot be produced. The best way to help the coal miners maximize production is to guarantee the necessary facilities and materials in time. This is also the road to more thoroughly implement the party's demands and to support coal mines at present.

Year's end draws near. It is getting colder and colder with each passing day. By vigorously supporting coal mines with materials, technology, and labor, we should increase coal production. To brilliantly carry out this year's target, to work out a policy of production during the winter season, and to make people's life more convenient are pressing demands.

To more efficiently meet the increasing demands for coal, we should vigorously carry out the work of supporting coal mines with the universal all-state and all-people campaign. This is the demand of reality.

Most important is that all people should be ideologically mobilized to more vigorously carry out the work of supporting coal mines. Ideology decides everything. Nothing is impossible when ideology works. In addition, providing coal mines with facilities and materials is not a big problem.

All party organizations and functionaries should continue to fully inform the masses of the significance and importance of supporting coal mines and of our party's consistent principles in guaranteeing the facilities and materials.

The party organizations, in particular, should be aware that, at present, the normalization of production at a higher level is important to increase coal production. Thereby, all people should vigorously carry out political propaganda and economic agitation so that they can positively contribute to the work of supporting coal mines and of increasing coal production. These should be carried out by what they actually do, not by what they say.

By so doing, all party members and the working people should sort out the problems in the coal mines, and they should be ideologically mobilized to solve them. The work of supporting coal mines is a pressing task today. Functionaries' chuche-oriented organizational and political work is very important, too.

All works need plans. Nothing can be achieved without organizing a plan. Only when functionaries correctly present the tasks and clearly set the date for the completion of its fulfillment can the work of supporting coal mines be properly carried out.

A large production of coal is important to rapidly develop the overall economy and to improve the people's standard of living. Functionaries, fully aware that all works depend on coal production, should go down to the coal mines and positively struggle to solve problems arising in coal production.

In particular, responsible functionaries in the State Administration Council, committees, and departments should responsibly carry out this work.

Although plants and enterprises put off other tasks, they, with their assigned task to support coal mines, should build a strict system of giving priority to producing and guaranteeing the facilities and materials need for coal production. In addition, they should make efforts to carry it out.

Many kinds of facilities and materials are needed for coal production. Needed are transportation facilities, including coal mining machines and coal trucks, more power and oil (kirum), as well as blasting materials and pit props.

The chemical industry and forest sectors, operating facilities at full capacity, should increase blasting materials and pit props and give a priority to providing them to coal mines.

The machine industry should further produce and supply facilities such as coal mining machines and coal trucks. In addition, it should organize the work to repair damaged facilities in a responsible manner.

Along with this, relevant sectors and units should better provide coal miners with small tools.

In the work of supporting coal mines, railway transportation is very important. The railway transportation sector should transport the finished machine facilities, pit props, and steel products in time. It also should speedily transport coal.

The work of supplying the rear is political work. This is also an important work in supporting coal mines at present. Only when we properly carry out the work of supplying the rear can we lead coal mines to vigorously struggle for coal production.

Relevant sectors and units are responsible for the coal miners' lives. In view of this position, they should struggle to supply the necessary facilities in a timely manner. In particular, they should take good care of discharged soldiers.

By so doing, they have ensured that coal miners, of whom our party takes care and regards as valuable, should devote themselves to the struggle of increasing coal production without anxiety and worry.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, fully aware of the decree on the work of the recent coal production and of supporting coal mines, has presented the task of carrying out the work of supporting coal mines with all-party, all-state, and all-people campaign.

Our party's high intention is to increase coal production in order to more vigorously accelerate production and construction and to highly display the superiority of our country's socialist system.

Functionaries and the working people in all sectors and units of the national economy, in upholding the party's high intention, should more vigorously carry out the work of supporting coal mines. As a result, they should highly display the superiority of the popular masses-centered socialism of our own style.

KCNA Reviews 8 Nov Pyongyang Press

SK0811052191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0451 GMT 8 Nov 91

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang November 8 (KCNA)—Papers here today carry a photo-accompanied report that Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK], received the general secretary of the National Council of the Communist Party of India and his companion on a visit to our country.

According to the press, the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received a gift from the national council of the Communist Party of India.

Appearing in the press is a messsage of greetings sent by President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to Frederick K.T. Chiluba upon his election as president of the Republic of Zambia.

NODONG SINMUN informs the readers that the great leader President Kim Il-song received solidarity letters from various countries upon the entry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea into the United Nations.

An article of the daily deals with the wise leadership of Comrade Kim Chong-il to bring up officials, party members and working people to be loyal subjects of chuche type.

The press reports that a message of thanks of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea was conveyed to the teachers and students of the Sinwon senior middle school in Sinuiju, North Pyongan Province, who set a good example in supporting the railways.

Seen in NODONG SINMUN is a message of greetings sent by the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea to the annual convention of the United Malay's National Organisation of Malaysia.

The daily carries a message of greetings sent by the general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Congo to the WPK Central Committee on the DPRK's entry into the United Nations.

Econews of the press includes reports about the powerful progress of the construction of the Sariwon potassic fertilizer complex and the successful carpeting of paddy fields with humus soil in the rural communities across the country.

Given in the press is an account of the press conference held with home and foreign reporters by Chong Nak-ho who came over to the northern half of Korea while working at the Ungwang Company of South Korea.

NODONG SINMUN introduces the mother of Yi In-mo, a former war correspondent of the Korean People's Army, and his wife Kim Sun-im under the title "Mother and Wife Who Waited for Day of Reunification" and MINJU CHOSON runs a story about deputy to the Supreme People's Assembly and twice labour heroine Chong Chun-sil who is director of the Chonchon County commercial management office, Chagang Province, under the title "True Servant of the People".

The press reports that the Secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland made public the list of the members of the consolatory group for Yi In-mo. Also seen in the press is a letter it sent to the "Unification Board" of South Korea over radio demanding it to take an appropriate measure regarding the consolatory group for Yi In-mo.

In a commentary, NODONG SINMUN denounces the suppression of the people which is getting more unscrupulous these days in South Korea.

It is reported in the press that Pak Song-hui and Song Yong-sung, delegates of the National Council of Student Representatives (Chondaehyop) of South Korea, in an article contributed to the South Korean magazine "MAL" declared that Chondaehyop would vigorously advance till the day of the building of a reunified country and peasants of 85 cities and counties in South Korea staged a general autumn harvest strike.

The Chinese PEOPLE'S DAILY carried a travelogue on Korea and the secrertary general of the international liaison committee for the reunification and peace in Korea called for the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula at the Geneva symposium on disarmament, says NODONG SINMUN.

According to papers, the Japanese press is giving wide publicity to reports about atrocities of the Japanese imperialists against Korean people taken to Japan by force during the Pacific war which are being disclosed one after another these days.

The press deals with the recent situation in the Soviet Union and carries news that talks between party leaders of China and Vietnam was held in Beijing and the Egyptian president called for the termination of the construction of "settlements" by Israel.

NODONG SINMUN introduces Vietnam, Laos and Nepal which are striving for the construction of a new Asia.

An article of the daily stresses that the "Eagle 91" joint war game being staged by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets in all parts of South Korea is manoeuvres designed to invade the North.

MINJU CHOSON writes about the positive moves toward peace noticed in El Salvador.

South Korea

Yi Sang-ok, Baker Discuss North Nuclear Issue

SK1311034791 Seoul YONHAP in English 0256 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 13 (OANA-YONHAP)—North Korea's development of nuclear arms was an urgent global issue, and the United States planned to use "political and diplomatic muscle" with other nations in deterring it, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said Wednesday.

Baker, in a 55-minute meeting with South Korean Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok, repeated his proposal for multilateral security talks on Korea but said Washington would not pursue them without consulting Seoul, said Pan Ki-mun, director-general of the Foreign Ministry's American Affairs Bureau.

The meeting dwelt extensively on bilateral issues, including rice market opening and U.S. moves to ban drift-net fishing in the northern Pacific, Pan said.

"The two leaders agreed that the international community should exert 'political and diplomatic muscle' in pressing North Korea to abandon its nuclear development," he said.

Baker also called for other nations, including the Soviet Union and China, to join this international effort.

On the proposed multilateral security talks among South and North Korea, the United States, the Soviet Union, China and Japan, Baker clarified that this was not a proposal for formal two-plus-four consultations, he said.

"Baker said the issues concerning the Korean peninsula should be solved through direct dialogue between South and North Korea, but proposed multilateral negotiations for political and diplomatic cooperation," Pan said in a press briefing.

"Baker said, 'it is not two-plus-four or anything like that, but multilateral efforts'," Pan said.

Yi made clear he opposed intervention by nations not directly involved in the Korean issue. If the multilateral forum were limited to North Korea's nuclear development, then South Korea would consider the proposal, he told Baker.

On economic issues, Baker stressed the importance of global efforts for the success of the Uruguay Round negotiations, saying they might be concluded in two or three months so Korea should prepare.

Yi pledged full cooperation for the Uruguay Round, but made clear that Korea will stick to its position on rice. He added that Korean fishermen needed more time to find alternative methods before the United States banned drift-net fishing.

The United States plans to prohibit all drift-net fishing, affecting mostly Japan, Korea and Taiwan, from July next year.

Editorials View U.S. '2-Plus-4' Talks Formula

Draws Seoul's 'Keen Attention'

SK1311024191 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 13 Nov 91 p 6

[Editorial: "Baker's Six-Nation Party"]

[Text] The proposed six-nation conference between the two Koreas, the United States, Japan, the Soviet Union and China is a sort of replay of frequent suggestions and proposals that have ranged from four-nation and later six-nation talks proposed by former U.S. secretary of state Henry Kissinger in the 1970s to a six-way conference proposed in a speech at the United Nations General Assembly by President No Tae-u in Oct., 1988. The difference is the situation surrounding the Korean peninsula has much changed since then.

The latest initiative taken by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has drawn keen attention especially from the Republic of Korea. The government seems to recognize the need for such multi-national talks ultimately to settle the Korean question, though the real implications of the Baker initiatives have yet to be made clear.

Baker said in a speech to the Japan Institute for International Affairs in Tokyo Monday that he will explore opportunities for cooperation by the U.S., Japan, China, the Soviet Union and the two Koreas, opportunities that will help to ease dialogue, help to ease tensions, facilitate discussion of common security concerns, and possibly guarantee outcomes negotiated by the two Koreas. His statement is assumed to roughly lay down his idea of a sort of two- plus-four formula that could be applicable to the Korean issue in an elaboration of a recent article he had published in FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

The government has revealed that it has been notified of the U.S. position on the six-nation conference, saying that Seoul is not opposed to the holding of the proposed meeting, if the participants discuss the overall political situation in Northeast Asia rather than inter-Korean problems. This maintains the government's basic position that the Korean question should be resolved on the basis of actions taken on their own initiative but that the four powers can support the two Koreas' peace talks and guarantee any of their agreements or decisions.

In this context, there is a little disparity between the Baker overture and the Korean posture that calls for the two Koreas playing the main role and the four a supportive part. Coincidentally, main opposition leader Kim Tae-chung has shared the government view in an interview with THE KOREA TIMES.

As Kim asserted, the two-plus-four formula, or German unification method is not applicable to the Korean case, as the Korean question is fundamentally in the South and North's own hands whereas German unification required the sanction of the four allied and occupation forces—the United States, the Soviet Union, France and Britain.

Yet, it is the stark reality that Korean problems including national unification will be hardly unravelled without assistance and guarantees of the four neighboring powers that have a vital interest in developments on the Korean peninsula.

Aside from the paramount goal of unification, the immediate and most sensitive problem is North Korea's secret development of nuclear as well as chemical and biological weapons. In order to compel Pyongyang to relinquish the nuclear project, a concerted effort is indispensable by the four major nations concerned. As a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the North is ignoring its international obligation to sign the Nuclear Safeguards Accords.

The Pyongyang regime has so far rejected such a six-nation conference sticking to its proposal for bilateral talks with the United States and later tripartite talks including South Korea. Pyongyang's strategy is to conclude a peace treaty with the United States to replace the existing armistice agreement with the goal of effecting the withdrawal of U.S. troops from the South. And Pyongyang's former allies, the Soviet Union and China, have been behind the North Korean maneuvering.

However, with the end of the Cold War era, indications are that the Soviet Union and China will continue to change their previous policies and come closer to the Baker plan. At this juncture, the Seoul government may well exploit the new overture to bring the North to the negotiation table to discuss the immediate nuclear issue and the long-range one of unification.

Korean, German Situations Different

SK1311101191 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 12 Nov 91 p 2

[Editorial: "If It Means '2 + 4' Talks on Nuclear Issues"]

[Text] The two Germanies' reunification a year ago was a thought-provoking, shocking event to us. At the same time, it was a lesson. We have tried ever since to draw a lesson from this historic event and ask what should be done for our longstanding desire called national reunification? We will continue to draw lessons. We also cannot ignore the fact that there are many more differences than points in common between the reunification of the Korean peninsula and the reunification of East and West Germany. The so-called "2 + 4" talks, a proposal advanced by U.S. Secretary of State Baker for reunification of the Korean peninsula, is a case in point.

U.S. Secretary of State Baker's proposal for "2 + 4" talks can be seen apparently as an effort to apply to the Korean peninsula the "2 + 4" talks formula that allowed for and guaranteed East Germany's and West Germany's reunification. A sketchy survey of the similarity between the two countries—the division of both Korea and Germany being the work of the cold war following World War II and being countries in which the major powers staked their conflicting interests—may have prompted the proponent to broach such a proposal.

The major powers that have interests in Germany and those that have interests in the Korean peninsula stand on grounds that are basically different. The major powers that approved and guaranteed Germany's reunification are the victors that occupied Germany at the end of the World War II. Legally speaking, Berlin, the former capital of Germany, was technically under these victorious countries' occupation.

In a sense, Germany's reunification was the last postwar undertaking that these four victorious countries agreed upon. Up until then, these countries had been in the position of calling on the Germanies to play a certain type of role in the international arena and recognizing the border line known as the Oder-Neisse.

In the case of the Korean peninsula, the four major neighboring countries specified in Baker's proposal are identical to those major powers responsible for Germany's reunification only in number. However, they are not in a position to interfere in the reunification of the Korean peninsula in political and legal terms. If stress is put on the political disposition of the Korean war, also known as the 25 June war, the United States and China may be qualified to take part in the settlement.

Nevertheless, Japan and the Soviet Union, and Japan in particular, should not be allowed to take part in the talks just because they have interests in the Korean peninsula. Of course, we find it necessary to amply respect the interests and opinion of these two countries as long as our country aspires for peace and friendship as national goals, as a member of the international community.

Japanese and Soviet interests in our country should be discussed and resolved within the framework of the bilateral negotiation channels, meaning Korea-Japan relations and Korea-Soviet relations. Under no circumstances do we hope to see again the political scenes created by these major powers during the late 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century being reenacted in our country.

This is why we find the government's position that the four major powers should remain in the second tier in the South-North talks and in the reunification of the Korean peninsula appropriate. However, we have no reason to oppose the format of talks if they are designed to institute a temporary cooperative body among the major neighboring countries for the purpose of addressing such specific issues as keeping North Korea from developing nuclear weapons. We must stand vigilant against the ignorance of the U.S. policymakers who, while calling the ROK the world's 13th largest economic power, have scant knowledge about the affairs related to the Korean peninsula.

'Source' Discusses U.S. Pullout of Nuclear Arms

SK1311041291 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 9 Nov 91 p 1

[Text] A highly-placed government source said on 8 November that the ROK and the United States have agreed to start withdrawing tactical nuclear weapons at the disposal of U.S. forces stationed in Korea before the end of the year.

He said: I understand that the two countries have not yet decided when to complete the withdrawal of the tactical nuclear weapons. I believe that U.S. Secretary of Defense Cheney, who is scheduled to come to Seoul in November to attend the annual ROK-U.S. security consultative meeting, and ROK Defense Minister Yi Chong-ku will discuss this question and make a decision.

The government source also said: Since the two countries are of the same opinion that the withdrawal of U.S. tactical nuclear weapons should be completed at an early date, it will not take a very long time to complete the withdrawal. It is highly likely that the withdrawal could be completed by next spring at the latest.

Apparently, the first of the U.S. tactical nuclear weapons were brought into Korea in 1958, and their withdrawal will be the first in 33 years.

Meanwhile, a high-ranking government official has confirmed that the tactical nuclear weapons deployed by U.S. forces stationed in Korea will be withdrawn at the earliest possible date. A procedure will be set up to verify when the withdrawal is completed.

The official stressed: Since most of the U.S. tactical nuclear weapons are expected to be destroyed when they are pulled out of Korea and taken to the continental United States, there is no possibility of their redeployment on our territory after the withdrawal. The passage of aircraft and vessels carrying nuclear weapons through our territorial air space and waters is not a violation of our nonnuclear policy because it is guaranteed by a system called (right of harmless flight) under international law.

He continued: One of the five points in the nonnuclear declaration states that our government will not store or deploy nuclear weapons; this means that it will not introduce nuclear weapons into its territory. So, the passage and entering of nuclear-laden aircraft into our territory is a right guaranteed in the ROK- U.S. Mutual Defense Treaty. Moreover, it is an issue to be discussed and decided among sovereign countries. Therefore, it does encroach upon the nonnuclear spirit.

Meantime, the government has stated: North Korea is now producing and storing a large quantity of poison gas—blister, nerve, blood, and tear—while breeding and producing a large quantity of biological weapons—cholera, pest, anthrax, and leptospira germs that can cause epidemic diseases. North Korea is believed to be capable of producing about 4,500 tons of chemical weapons a year and has a storage of about 1,500 tons at the moment.

The government continued: North Korea has concentrated efforts on developing and producing chemical weapons since the early sixties when it began building research facilities for producing chemical and biological weapons. North Korean army units down to regiment-level have established chemical platoons and have been conducting offensive exercises with chemical weapons.

Minister Reaffirms Policy on Rice Market Opening

SK1311103191 Seoul YONHAP in English 0656 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 13 (YONHAP)—Saying South Korea cannot afford to allow imports of a minimum amount of foreign rice, Deputy Prime Minister Choe Kak-kyu reaffirmed Wednesday that there has not been any change in the government position against the market opening.

"We cannot open our market for foreign rice since there is no country in the world that depends more on rice than Korea," Choe said. "We have to protect our farmers."

Choe, who is also head of the Economic Planning Board, made the remark to reporters shortly before he held an official meeting with U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills, who is here to attend the ministerial conference of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and hold separate talks with Korean officials on bilateral trade issues including the liberalization of Korean market for foreign farm products.

The Korean Government was also trying to explain its position to representatives of the 15 APEC member countries while doing its best to exclude rice from a list of items for liberalization being discussed at the Uruguay Round of global trade negotiations in Geneva, government sources said.

Rice Issue Called 'Life-or-Death Struggle'

SK1311103591 Seoul YONHAP in English 0945 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 13 (YONHAP)—Citizens' protest is spreading like a wild fire against U.S. pressure to open up South Korea's rice market with people from various walks of life joining in "life-or-death" struggle.

Some 300 farming and fishing "inheritors," who had been named as the leaders of agricultural reform in the nation by the government, from across the country gathered in Changchungdan Park near a Seoul hotel where the third ministerial meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation was in session and demanded the United States "immediately drop its pressure to open up Korea's rice market" Wednesday.

"We, 50,000 farming and fishing inheritors, cannot suppress shock and indignation at the pressure the GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) Secretariat and the U.S. Government are imposing (on Korea) to settle the agricultural negotiations of the Uruguay Round trade talks," a statement issued by the farmers said.

"President No Tae-u should come out before the farmers in agony and declare that he will protect rice by all means."

After the rally, the farmers marched toward the Shilla Hotel, carrying placards reading "Rice opening: an end to our agriculture" and shouting "no rice import" and "death-or-life struggle to stop rice import."

The marchers failed to go forward due to the riot police who heavily outnumbered them.

Earlier in the day, seven Seoul collegians, who were members of Chondaehyop, the National Alliance of Student Representatives, demonstrated near Shilla Hotel where U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills was staying, shouting slogans like "Carla Hills go home," and "the United States stop economic invasion." All of them were detained by police.

The police have beefed up surveillance around U.S. facilities.

A group of four Christian clergymen from farm areas visited the heavily-guarded U.S. Embassy in downtown Seoul Wednesday morning and delivered 500 copies of Korean farmers' letter to U.S. President George Bush and a statement pledging strong objection to rice market opening to Robert McConnell, agricultural counselor.

In Chungwon, northern Chungchong Province, some 60 farmers held an hours-long rally Wednesday, demanding the government ban rice import and purchase local rice at prices 23 percent higher than last year's.

Chonnong or the National Alliance of Farmers will hold anti-rice import rallies on Nov. 22 simultaneously in over 30 places nationwide, a Chonnong spokesman said.

The spokesman said a large-scale meeting would be held in Changchungdan Park on Nov. 26 and would be followed by street demonstrations.

Another rally is planned for Saturday [16 November] at Tapkol Park in downtown Seoul by Kyongsilyon or the Citizens Alliance for Economic Justice.

Farmers, Students Protest Rice Market 'Pressure'

SK1311030691 Seoul YONHAP in English 0239 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 13 (YONHAP)—Police have tightened their guard around the U.S. Embassy and the site of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting Wednesday as farmers and other citizens staged demonstrations against what they called U.S. pressure on Korea to open its market for rice and other foreign farm products.

Shouting slogans like "Carla Hills go home," and "The United States stop economic invasion," seven Seoul University students of the radical student organization Chondaehyop [National Council of University Student Representatives] held demonstration near Shilla hotel where the APEC meeting opened Tuesday.

All of them were detained by police when they tried to march toward the hotel.

Another group of 20 Christian clergymen from farm areas held a brief protest rally in the lobby of Shilla Hotel Tuesday afternoon before they were dispersed by police.

U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills is in town to attend the APEC meeting and to hold talks with Korean Government officials on bilateral trade issues including those related to opening of the Korean market for foreign rice.

Elsewhere, about 200 Protestant ministers, students and ordinary citizens, opposing the liberalization of rice imports, held a prayer meeting Tuesday before marching to a downtown park.

In a statement, they said that the Korean economy would go bankrupt if the country submits to U.S. pressure to open its rice market.

Some 2,000 farmers led by officials of the National Agricultural Cooperatives Federation held a rally before launching a 1 million- signature campaign in 5,000 places throughout the nation, opposing the imports of foreign rice.

Churchmen Urge U.S. To Reconsider Rice Policy

SK1311060391 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0400 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Four Koreans, including Rev. Kim Pyong-kwon of the National Agricultural Christian Measures Committee, today visited the U.S. Embassy and met with Macke, agricultural counselor of the U.S. Embassy, and delivered to him approximately 500 letters from peasants and students and a statement addressed to U.S. President Bush.

They pointed out in the statement that, because it is unreasonable and unilateral for the United States to put pressure on the ROK to open the market for the import of agricultural products on the basis of simple comparative advantages, the United States should reconsider its policy.

Yi Sang-ok Says Inter-Korean Solutions Needed

SK0911135491 Seoul YONHAP in English 1318 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 9 (YONHAP)—South Korean Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok, saying his government's basic position remained unchanged, reaffirmed Saturday that any problem concerning the Korean peninsula should be solved through inter-Korean negotiations and consultations.

Appearing on a joint interview with KBS and MBC TV, Yi explained the government's stance on a reported proposal by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker that a multinational consultative body be inaugurated in Northeast Asia involving South and North Korea, the United States, Japan, China and the Soviet Union.

Yi said that Baker's idea deserves consideration only if the proposed body was designed to help South and North Korea to implement details of a certain accord that may be produced in the inter-Korean dialogues.

Yi said he anticipated a second meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen during the ministerial conference of Asia- Pacific Economic Cooperation [APEC] in Seoul next week. Yi and Qian met for the first time at the United Nations General Assembly in October after South and North Korea were formally admitted into the global body.

Once the meeting was arranged, Yi said, he and Qian would discuss ways to substantially promote bilateral relations and expedite the signing of a bilateral agreement on trade.

In addition, he would have a series of talks with foreign ministers from the pnrticipating nations in the APEC conference Nov. 12-14 to seek diplomatic efforts at international level to halt North Korea's nuclear development project. HIs extensive diplomatic activities follow up President No Tae-u's declaration of a nonnuclear Korean peninsula initiative.

Denouncing North Korea's call for a "nuclear-free" Korean peninsula as "unrealistic," Yi said he hoped the North to react positively to No's proposal by taking correponding measures.

More on No Tae-u, PRC Foreign Minister Talks

OW1211153991 Tokyo KYODO in English 1440 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 12 KYODO—South Korean President No Tae-u on Tuesday asked for Chinese help in dissuading North Korea from developing nuclear weapons, South Korean Government sources said.

No made the request Tuesday evening in a 40-minute meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, the first Chinese foreign minister ever to visit Seoul, capital of the archrival of China's long-time communist ally.

Qian is in Seoul to attend the ministerial conference of the Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) organization.

The South Korean Government has regarded China's backing as a crucial diplomatic factor for persuading North Korea to submit to international inspection of its nuclear facilities, especially the Yongbyong nuclear plant 88 kilometers north of Pyongyang.

The sources quoted No as telling Qian that the nuclear arms development program which he said Pyongyang is pursuing endangers the security not only of Northeast Asia and the Korean peninsula, but of the whole world.

No also briefed Qian on his government's landmark announcement—made November 8—to eliminate all nuclear weapons from its own territory in hopes of securing a decision by Pyongyang to reciprocate by halting nuclear arms development, the sources said.

At the meeting with Qian, the South Korean president also expressed Seoul's readiness to promote closer trade relations with Beijing while seeking to normalize diplomatic relations, they said.

South Korea and China currently do not have diplomatic relations. However, the two nations maintain trade representative offices in each other's capital.

It is not known how the Chinese foreign minister responded to No's request to pressure the communist regime in Pyongyang to accept international inspection of its nuclear facilities.

U.S. intelligence reports, on the strength of satellite reconnaissance photos, has said the Yongbyong plant is capable of producing nuclear weapons. North Korea has flatly denied that it has such a capability or is working to acquire one.

Qian responded to No's comments by saying that Beijing appreciates Seoul's efforts in helping China gain APEC conference membership, the sources said.

Seoul's major morning paper, HANGUK ILBO, reported that Qian responded favorably to Seoul's overture concerning bilateral diplomatic normalization.

The paper said, however, that Qian stopped short of mentioning the specific timing or method for establishing diplomatic relations between the two nations.

ROK, Chinese Trade Ministers Hold Talks

SK1311023191 Seoul YONHAP in English 0147 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 13 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korean Trade and Industry Minister Yi Pong-so and Chinese Foreign Economic Relations and Trade Minister Li Lanquin agreed Wednesday to resume working-level talks on a trade agreement and expressed their satisfaction with the progress of expanded two-way trade and investment between their countries.

Li said China was trying to improve the investment environment for Korean companies and increase investment in infrastructure, but had encountered some difficulties due to shortages of skilled workers and poor management knowhow.

The failures of foreign companies in China were the result of improper selection of joint investment partners, Li said.

Yi pointed out that Korea's second largest trade deficit is with China, amounting this year to about 800 million U.S. dollars excluding indirect trade via Hong Kong, and called for Beijing to sign a bilateral trade agreement with Seoul as soon as possible.

China would do its best to draw up an agreement this year, Li said, noting that Korean President No Tae-u and Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen also touched on the problem in talks Tuesday.

Yi said Chinese manufacturers were showering exports on the Korean market so fast that they might destroy small and medium companies, so China must contain that strategy.

"China will be careful of that from now on," Li said.

The ministers agreed to hold the second working-level meeting on the trade agreement in Seoul at the end of this month or early December. The first was in Beijing in August, but the two sides reached nowhere.

China currently levys discriminatory import taxes on Korean commodities ranging from 5 percent to 30 percent, which has played a role in worsening the trade imbalance. If an agreement is concluded, Korean products will be given lower tariffs.

The two ministers, however, didn't discuss the conclusion of an investment guarantee agreement between Korea and China.

"Today's talks will be a stepping-stone for the two countries to make a turning-point of economic relations," a Korean Government official said.

Agree on Trade Pact

SK1311013691 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0100 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] The ROK and China have agreed to sign a trade agreement before the end of this year.

After meeting over breakfast this morning at the Shilla Hotel with Li Lanqing, Chinese minister of foreign economic relations, who is in Korea to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Conference, Yi Pong-so, ROK minister of trade and industry, said that the two countries have agreed to sign a trade agreement before the end of this year.

Minister Yi Pong-so added that the two countries have agreed to hold working-level talks in Seoul either by the end of November or early next month to prepare for the signing of the trade agreement.

In the first round of talks between the two countries held in Beijing last August to work out the trade agreement, China promised to remove the discriminate 5 to 10 percent tariff imposed on ROK goods. China, however, has dragged its feet on this promise.

Meantime, Korea has posted an $800 million trade deficit with China from the beginning of this year through September, which makes China the fourth country with which our country is posting a trade deficit.

YONHAP To Carry PRC Economic News Service

SK1311024891 Seoul YONHAP in English 0231 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 13 (YONHAP) - YONHAP News Agency concluded an agreement Wednesday with XINHUA News under which it will receive and distribute the Chinese agency's English-language economic news service in Korea.

Conclusion of the agreement enables YONHAP to receive "China Economic Information" (CEI) directly from Beijing as early as Dec. 1.

CEI comprises an average daily cast of 35 items featuring price trends of Chinese commodities, foreign exchange rate fluctuations and a variety of statistics as well as revisions of investment-related laws.

It is the first time that South Korean and Chinese news media organizations have concluded a bilateral news exchange pact without the intervention of a third party in their press relations.

Japan's Miyazawa Plans Early Visit to Seoul

OW1211144491 Tokyo KYODO in English 1429 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 12 KYODO—Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa will visit South Korea "as soon as possible," a Japanese Government official said Tuesday.

The visit was agreed during talks late Tuesday between visiting Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe and his South Korean Counterpart Yi Sang-ok.

The official said the time frame for the visit has yet to be decided and will be worked out via diplomatic channels.

During their hourlong talks, Watanabe applauded the recently- announced South Korean initiative for a nuclear-free Korean peninsula, terming it "fairly timely."

South Korean President No Tae-u said last week his country will use nuclear energy only for peaceful purposes and not manufacture, possess, store, deploy, or use nuclear weapons.

His announcement is widely regarded as clearing away some of North Korea's objections to opening its secretive nuclear facilities to international inspection.

Pyongyang has maintained North Korea is threatened by the presence of U.S. weapons in South Korea, and has refused to sign the inspection accord with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) until those weapons are withdrawn.

Yi was quoted as saying Seoul is hopeful North Korea, though still negative about inspections, will take steps in line with his country's "original and comprehensive" measures.

Calling Pyongyang's unreceptive attitude "regretful," Watanabe said Japan and South Korea should join hands to persuade North Korea to open its nuclear sites to international scrutiny.

ROK, Japanese Ministers Discuss Nuclear Issues

SK1211152991 Seoul YONHAP in English 1504 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 12 (OANA-YONHAP)—There will be no progress in Tokyo-Pyongyang normalization unless North Korea abandons its nuclear development program, including nuclear reprocessing plants, Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe said Tuesday.

Japan, the United States, China and the Soviet Union should put international pressure on North Korea to stop its nuclear development program, he said.

Tokyo will make these points clear when it holds fifth round of diplomatic talks with Pyongyang Nov. 18, Watanabe said.

Newly-appointed Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa hopes to visit South Korea in the nearest future, he added, most likely his first foreign trip after his appointment earlier this month.

Watanabe made the remarks at an hour-long meeting with South Korean Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok. He arrived earlier in the day to attend the third ministerial conference of the Asia-Pacific Economic Conference (APEC) Nov. 12-14.

"Watanabe made clear there will be no Tokyo-Pyongyang normalization unless North Korea abandons building nuclear facilities, including reprocessing plants," Kim Sok-u, director- general of South Korean Foreign Ministry's Asian Affairs Ministry, said in a briefing following the meeting.

South Korean President No Tae-u's declaration of a non-nuclear Korea was "very timely," and it will give more weight to Japan's demand that North Korea halt its nuclear development program, Watanabe was quoted as saying.

"The Japanese foreign minister was in full agreement that his country, along with the United States, China and the Soviet Union must continue to press North Korea against developing nuclear weapons," Kim said.

In a separate briefing by the Japanese side, spokesman Seiji Morimoto said, "Japan is now having negotiations with North Korea on establishing diplomatic relations, and in this negotiation, we demand that North Korea should accept obligatory nuclear inspection and also call for demolishing its nuclear facilities."

"There will be no progress in the negotiations unless North Korea would accept the widely demanded condition," he said.

The North Korean nuclear issue was discussed in his meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker at a Tokyo meeting, Watanabe was quoted as saying.

Japanese Prime Minister Miyazawa hopes to visit Seoul in the nearest future, and the two sides will begin arranging the details , Kim said.

Watanabe began the meeting with congratulatory remarks at South Korea's success in drawing China, Taiwan and Hong Kong as new APEC members.

"It is a great pleasure that my first foreign visit as a foreign minister is South korea, and my first meeting here is with South Korean Foreign Minister Yi," Watanabe said before the closed-door session began.

Watanabe Assures No on DPRK Ties

SK1311090791 Seoul YONHAP in English 0845 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 13 (YONHAP)—Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe assured President No Tae-u Wednesday Japan will not establish diplomatic ties with North Korea unless Pyongyang accepts international inspection of its nuclear facilities and abandons nuclear weapons development program.

These are "the firm preconditions" for the improvement of relations between Japan and North Korea, Watanabe told No when he paid a courtesy call on the South Korean president at Chongwadae Wednesday.

The newly appointed Japanese foreign minister is in Seoul to attend the ministerial conference of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation.

Japan's negotiations with North Korea for diplomatic relations will proceed in a manner that will help strengthen ties between South Korea and Japan, he said.

The negotiations will also be based on No's five-point declaration on a "non-nuclear" Korean peninsula, Watanabe said.

No told Watanabe that although the relations between Seoul and Tokyo were moving in a desirable direction since his visit to Japan in May, Seoul still needs the Japanese Government's help in its efforts to redress a lopsided trade imbalance in favor of Japan. South Korea also needs Japan's active assistance in technology transfer, No said.

Watanabe told No that Japan's new prime minister, Kiichi Miyazawa, hopes to visit South Korea at an early date.

No welcomed the proposal and assured Watanabe that his government will make arrangements for Miyazawa's visit through the diplomatic channel, said presidential spokesman Yi Su-chong.

No Tae-u Calls For Action on Trade

OW1311090091 Tokyo KYODO in English 0831 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 13 KYODO—South Korean President No Tae-u on Wednesday called for further Japanese efforts to make "tangible" progress on the issues of its bilateral trade surplus and sluggish technological transfer, a Japanese Government official said.

No made the request during talks with Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, who is visiting Seoul for the third Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) ministerial meeting.

He said bilateral ties are generally moving in "a satisfying direction," except for these two issues, which have failed to make much headway.

No was quoted as saying that everything needs "balance," be it economic matters or security, and that any upset in this balance is undesirable.

Japan's trade surplus is expected to hit a record high in 1991, with the surplus in the first nine months of this year already surpassing last year's 5.75 billion dollars.

South Korea has also urged quick technological transfer from Japan to upgrade its industrial structure, but the assistance has been sluggish so far.

The Korean president also expressed his wish that Japan's new Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa can visit Seoul "at the earliest possible time" for an exchange of views.

Watanabe and his South Korean counterpart Yi Sang-ok agreed Tuesday to work toward a visit by Miyazawa through diplomatic channels.

Government Appoints Representative to Cambodia

SK1311133491 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 12 Nov 91 p1

[Text] On 11 November, the Korean Government appointed Chong Chu-nyon, ambassador to Thailand, concurrently as the ROK representative to the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia and informed the SNC of this decision.

The Cambodian peace agreement was signed on 23 October, and the Korean Government recognized the SNC as Cambodia's sole legitimate institution on 24 October. By appointing a diplomatic representative this time, the government appears to have begun contacts aimed at normalizing relations between the two countries, thereby drawing our notice.

ROK, Singapore To Work for Regional Cooperation

SK1211042391 Seoul YONHAP in English 0305 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 12 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korean Trade and Industry Minister Yi Pong-so agreed Tuesday with Singaporean Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loon to promote regional cooperation and work for the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round talks during the ministerial meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation here, according to Korean officials.

Lee, who is also Singapore's trade and industry minister, said a political resolution was needed for the agricultural sector talks in the Uruguay Round as the Europeans and Americans were asking for tariffication without exception for all products.

Both Lees agreed that, because of import restrictions such as anti-dumping suits imposed by the United States and European Community nations, they would cooperate to improve the negotiating ability of the advanced developing countries, which include Korea and Singapore.

The Korean Trade and Industry Minister sought an understanding and joint efforts from Lee on rice-market opening issues, saying they were related not only to economics and politics but also to national security and cultural problems.

Both ministers were of the opinion that it was only a matter of time before communist nations opened their doors.

Singapore's Lee told his South Korean counterpart in their 30-minute closed-door meeting that when North Korean Trade Minister Kim Tal-hyon visited Singapore recently he had said market opening and expansion of trade were the most urgent pending tasks.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Mahathir Says No Defense Capability Upgrade

BK1311095091 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0600 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Malaysia hopes to see the downgrading of research and development of military equipment. The prime minister says the money should instead be spent on civilian facilities, civilian development, and civil aviation purposes. He told newsmen in Langkawi Island that Malaysia will not upgrade its defense capability.

Referring to the Langkawi maritime and aerospace exhibition, Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said the exhibitors had expressed their appreciation of being given the opportunity to participate in the event. Meanwhile, a spokesman for the organizers said more than 3,000 trade visitors had already visited the five-day show which began on Monday. More than 150 companies from 15 countries are taking part in the maritime and aerospace show.

Two Army Officers Join UN Cambodia Mission

BK1311142891 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 1330 GMT 13 nov 91 91

[Text] Malaysia will send two Army officers to take part in the United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia, UNAMIC, in Phnom Penh. The first officer, Major Kamarulzaman Maulud, has left for Bangkok on his way to the Cambodian capital. An Army spokesman said the other officer, Major Mahbob Harun, would leave for Cambodia next month. UNAMIC, which will have its headquarters in Phnom Penh, will function for six months pending the setting up of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia, UNTAC.

Peru's Fujimori Arrives For 2-Day Visit 13 Nov

BK1311041291 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0321 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Nov 13 (OANA-BERNAMA)—President Alberto Fujimori of Peru arrived here Wednesday for a two-day visit, the first official visit to Malaysia by a Peruvian president.

President Fujimori flew in on board a Singapore Airlines flight after a three-day working visit to Singapore.

He was greeted on arrival at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport here by Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

From the airport, he was immediately whisked off to Istana Negara [State Palace] to have an audience with the Yang Dipertuan Agung (the Malaysian King), Sultan Azlan Shah.

This afternoon, President Fujimori will hold discussions with Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed after which an agreement on bilateral cooperation will be signed.

Satellite Launching Agreement With U.S., France

BK1311074591 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0514 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Nov 13 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysia signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with France and the United States Tuesday for the design, manufacture, launching and maintenance of its first satellite.

The project, estimated to cost US $250 million, will be launched from Kourou in France in 1994.

Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said after witnessing the signing of the MOU in Langkawi that the event is a "great step forward" for Malaysia as well as for the East Asia telecommunications industry.

Local telecommunications company Binariang represented Malaysia while Arianespace signed for France, and Hughes, which will manufacture the satellite, signed for the United States.

Binariang Director Nordin Baharuddin said an agreement is expected to be finalised and signed in two months.

Under the MOU, the design and manufacture of the satellite will be based on Hughes' technology while the launching of the satellite will be handled by Arianespace. Binariang will send local staff to the two firms for training in the operational aspects.

Nordin said the satellite will change the course and scope of the telecommunications industry not only in Malaysia but also in the neighbouring countries.

Dr. Mahathir, also making the same point, said he is happy to see the Philippines involved as a user of the satellite.

The signing of the MOU was preceded by the signing of an agreement among the user group comprising Time Engineering, Philippines Long-Distance Telephone Co, Colorado-based Worldwide Sports and Entertainment, Uniphone Telecommunications, Communications and Satellite System Services, and Binariang.

Hughes Vice-President and Group President Steven D. Dorfman said Hughes is negotiating for two satellites under the final agreement instead of one.

Refinery Contract With Japanese, ROK Firms

BK0911084191 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0600 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Text] Malaysia's national oil company, Petronas, said today it has signed up with a Japanese and a South

Korean firm for a U.S. $1.85 billion sour crude refinery. The deal for Petronas' second such refinery came five months after the two original foreign partners pulled out. Japan's Idemitsu Company, Ltd., and South Korea's Samsung Company, Ltd., will take 40 percent and 15 percent stakes respectively, while Petronas Penapisan Melaka of Malaysia will hold the remaining interest.

The three parties signed here a letter of intent which will form the basis for the formation of a joint venture to run the refinery, which is expected to come on stream in mid-1996.

Japan Business Corporation Opens Malaysia Office

OW0911050691 Tokyo KYODO in English 0456 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Nov. 9 KYODO—Japan's governmental Small Business Finance Corp. (SBFC), which assists small and medium-sized industries (SMIS), has opened its first overseas office here, using Malaysia as a center to facilitate Japanese investment in Southeast Asia.

Local newspapers Saturday quoted SBFC Governor Ikawa Hiroshi as saying Malaysia was selected because of its strategic location and rapid industrial growth.

The SBFC office, opened Thursday, will help Japanese SMIS with investment, as well as expand employment opportunities, develop human resources and technology transfers.

The SBFC has about 300 clients so far in Southeast Asia, with 76 in Malaysia, which ranks second after Thailand.

Almost half of the Malaysian clients are joint ventures, mostly in the manufacturing sector.

Malaysian Industrial Development Authority Chairman Zainal Abidin Sulong [name as received] urged Japanese companies to relocate their businesses to Malaysia, where lack of capital has hampered the growth of SMIS.

Malaysia, he added, preferred more Japanese SMIS to turn to supportive industries producing components, and high quality casting and forgings.

The SBFC, a government institution, was set up in 1953 to provide loans for overseas investment and to market imported goods.

Singapore

Peru's President Arrives on Working Visit 11 Nov

BK1111112891 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1100 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] Peru's president, Alberto Fujimori, arrived in Singapore this morning for a four-day working visit. He met officials of the Economic and Trade Development Board this afternoon. This evening, Mr. Fujimori will attend a dinner hosted by President Wee Kim Wee at the Istana [palace]. Mr. Fujimori and his delegation will meet the prime minister, Mr. Goh Chok Tong, tomorrow.

Seeks Telecommunications, Port Help

BK1311130791 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 13 Nov 91 p 40

[Text] The Singapore Government has agreed to consider helping Peru develop its telecommunications and port facilities, said Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori at a press conference yesterday.

The possibility of Singapore helping Peru was raised at a meeting which he had with Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong yesterday afternoon.

Earlier at a luncheon organised by the Singapore Federation of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Fujimori said that the Peruvian Government will set up a business office here as one of its "immediate" tasks to intensify economic linkages between the two countries.

Calling himself a "President-Ambassador-Salesman", he said that the purpose of his visit to Asia was to "introduce the enormous potential for investment in Peru to this part of the world".

He said investment opportunities exist in tourism as well as in the oil, gas and mining industries where "huge reserves wait to be tapped".

Mr. Fujimori refuted the "negative image of Peru as a violent country", saying that "terrorist groups are a minority now rejected by an organized society".

As an indication of political stability, he said that around 98 percent of Peruvian entrepreneurs support his government's economic programmes. This is after one year of an economic austerity programme he initiated soon after taking office.

On infrastructural development, he said that the government will be investing about U.S.$250 million (S [Singapore] $415 million) to improve roads and will be privatising the railway, airport and telecommunication services shortly.

Yesterday, the Peruvian delegation visited Singapore Telecom, the Stock Exchange of Singapore, and the Port of Singapore Authority.

In the evening, Mr. Fujimori delivered a keynote address on "Asia and the Promise of Peru: Extending the Pacific Rim" at a symposium organized by BUSINESS WEEK.

The Peruvian delegation leaves this morning for Kuala Lumpur.

Prime Minister Receives Cypriot Defense Minister

NC1011154991 Nicosia CYPRUS MAIL in English 10 Nov 91 p 2

[Text] Cyprus Defence Minister Andreas Alonevtis, currently on a four-day official visit to Singapore, has had talks with the country's Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong.

Alonevtis briefed the Singapore Premier on the latest developments in the Cyprus problem and the Cypriot government's efforts for a peaceful settlement.

Goh showed keen interest in Cyprus' political and economic situation and expressed his satisfaction with the level of cooperation between the two countries.

The Singapore Premier stressed the importance and the need to strengthen the will and readiness of small countries to defend themselves and protect their independence and territorial integrity.

Cambodia

Hun Sen Comments on Protecting Khmer Rouge

LD1311042191 London ITV Television Network in English 1900 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Interview with Hun Sen, chairman of the Cambodian Council of Ministers, by correspondent Lindsay Taylor in Phnom Penh on 12 November; from the "Channel 4 News" program; Hun Sen in speaks in Cambodian with English translation—recorded]

[Text] [Taylor] More than 200 officials and civil servants from across the country [Cambodia] met in secret to discuss the country's political future, including the place of the Khmer Rouge. Present was Prime Minister [title as heard] Hun Sen, who afterwards, in an exclusive interview with Channel 4 News, spelled out the problems posed by the Khmer Rouge return.

[Hun Sen] My concern now is how we can protect the Khmer Rouge. It is said that there may be demonstrations against them in Phnom Penh, and, if we do not protect them, they will not be safe. But if we use our police to stop the demonstrations, we shall be accused of violating human rights.

[Taylor] Hun Sen's government tried and sentenced Pol Pot and other leaders, including Khieu Samphan, in their absence and sentenced them to death. So, with the Paris agreement, will such sentences be overturned?

[Hun Sen] In the agreement, there is no mention of rescinding those sentences. From what the American secretary of state and the British foreign minister said, there are no such plans. The matter must now go before the courts. In my opinion, the crime of Pol Pot is genocide, and in the convention against genocide, there is no mention of immunity for anyone. The trial is a matter for the new government, but, if our party is toppled, there will be no one who will condemn Pol Pot.

State Holds 'Close to' 1,000 Political Prisoners

BK1311064491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0633 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Phnom Penh, Nov 13 (AFP)—The Phnom Penh government said Wednesday that it is still holding close to 1,000 political prisoners, despite its pledge to release its prisoners of conscience.

But one of the most well-known prisoners, former Cambodian leader Pen Sovan, was set free last month, said Deputy Interior Minister Sin Sen. "With regard to political prisoners, their number is less than 1,000," he told foreign journalists. "We will release all of them after we fully implement the peace agreement, the sooner the better."

The Phnom Penh government has said several times that it would release all political prisoners as part of the peace treaty it signed in October to end a 13-year civil war. A total of 1,034 prisoners of conscience were released in honor of the peace agreeement and also to celebrate a Cambodian religious festival last month, he said. Among them was Pen Sovan.

Pen Sovan was commander of the army, vice president of the State Council and secretary general of the Communist Party until he dropped out of sight in December 1981. The prevailing theory in the media at the time was that he was taken to Hanoi which was angered by his increasingly independent stance. The Phnom Penh government acknowledged for the first time two weeks ago that he had been a political prisoner for the last 10 years, though without saying where he was held. "Pen Sovan is a Cambodian and after the signing of the peace agreement he has the same rights as everybody else," the deputy minister said.

Sin Sen would not say why the remaining 1,000 prisoners—including prisoners of war—were still being held. The deputy minister said political prisoners "who did not create any loss or destruction against the people" would be released soon. But he hinted that prisoners of war might not be freed. "Any prisoner who caused destruction or loss against the people, we do not tolerate this kind of political prisoner," he said.

Chea Sim Tells People To Choose 'Right Path'

BK1211064891 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0444 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK November 12—Chea Sim said that the people should choose the right path to go, otherwise they would fall back into the past calamity. He was referring to the general election to be held in Cambodia in the future, which is an important task for all Cambodians.

The chairman of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP], who attended a gathering of about 6,500 people in the provincial town of Stung Treng, to plant a pipal tree sapling last Saturday, also spoke of the contents of the peace agreement signed in Paris on October 23. Chairman Chea Sim was accompanied by Senior Lieutenant General Bou Thang, Mrs. Men Sam-an, president of the trade unions, and other members of the CPP.

Greetings to Soviet Leaders on Revolution Day

BK1211070191 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0440 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK November 12—Cambodian leaders have sent a joint message of greetings to the Soviet leaders on the 74th anniversary of the Great October Revolution. The message jointly signed by Heng Samrin, president of the State Council, and Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia, was addressed to Mikhail Gorbachev, president of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and Ivan Silayev, chairman of the Council of Ministers.

It reads: "The achievements made the past 74 years since the October Revolution have brought about positive changes in the Soviet Union, contributing to world peace and human dignity".

"We would like to express our deep gratitude to the Soviet Government and people for their support and assistance to the Cambodian Government and people, especially their contribution to a political settlement of the Cambodian problem".

The message wished the ties of friendship and cooperation in all fields between the two countries further consolidation and development for the interests of the two countries and peoples.

CPP Thanks Laos for Party Congress Wishes

BK1311021091 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] The Cambodian People's Party [CPP] Central Committee recently sent a message of thanks to the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee. The message says in essence:

The CPP Central Committee would like to sincerely thank the LPRP Central Committee for your best wishes and warm congratulations on the CPP's extraordinary congress. We firmly believe that the traditional relations of solidarity and friendship between our two parties and countries will strengthen and consistantly develop, even though the situation in our country and nation has entered a new phase.

May the LPRP Central Committee score new and greater victories in building a prosperous and glorious Laos.

Japanese Ambassador to SNC Arrives 10 Nov

BK1111074291 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0454 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK November 11—The appointed Japanese ambassador to the Supreme National Council, Yukio Imagawa, arrived in Phnom Penh Sunday [10 November] to resume diplomatic relations between Cambodia and Japan after more than 16 years of freezing due to the war in Cambodia.

The Japanese diplomat and his wife, who flew in from Bangkok, Thailand, were warmly welcomed in Phnom Penh by many officials of the Foreign Ministry of the State of Cambodia.

He will look for a residence in Phnom Penh for the Japanese mission and present credentials to H.R.H. Norodom Sihanouk, president of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia (SNC), according to one of the officials.

Japan To Send Survey Team

OW1011062491 Tokyo KYODO in English 0612 GMT 10 Nov 91

[By Masanori Kikuta]

[Text] Phnom Penh, Nov. 10 KYODO—Japan will dispatch a fact-finding mission here around January ahead of an international aid conference it will host for the war-torn country, Tokyo's first permanent Cambodian envoy in 16 years said Sunday.

The survey team, consisting of engineers, doctors, and other experts, will look into needs for reconstruction and rehabilitation of the country devastated by two decades of conflict and civil war, Yukio Imagawa told a news conference. Japan will organize a working-level meeting before March prior to a ministerial aid conference, Imagawa said.

Japan announced the conference plan in Paris in October when 18 nations signed a peace package with leaders of the Supreme National Council (SNC), Cambodia's reconciliation body, ending almost 13 years of civil war. Imagawa is the second permanent representative to the SNC to arrive in Phnom Penh following a North Korean envoy since the peace accord was sealed, a Cambodian Foreign Ministry official said.

He played down fears the Khmer Rouge, one of three rebel groups represented on the SNC, might sabotage the United Nations-engineered peace process leading up to general elections. Many Cambodians fear the communist guerrilla group for its 1975-78 rule of terror that led to the deaths of an estimated one million people in a country whose present population is eight million.

Imagawa acknowledged there is concern the Khmer Rouge might find it uncomfortable to stay in Pnhom Penh because of such fears prevailing among citizens, possibly triggering unexpected developments and stalling the peace process. "But I think things will turn out alright, though it will take time," he added.

Imagawa said earlier in the day upon arrival from Bangkok he is "fairly optimistic" about prospects of peace and stability being restored in Cambodia. "With the peace pact in place, I think the Cambodian problem will be resolved if Prince (Norodom) Sihanouk and Prime Minister Hun Sen (of the Phnom Penh government) continue to cooperate," said the 59-year-old former minister at the Japanese Embassy in Bangkok.

Foreign assistance alone would do little without cooperation among Cambodians themselves, said Imagawa, who served his first overseas diplomatic stint in Phnom Penh more than 20 years ago. That cooperation "is going to take place now," he said, adding it will be symbolized by Sihanouk's return to Phnom Penh scheduled for Thursday.

The former Cambodian ruler will be back in his home country as head of the SNC, an interim governing body representing all four rival factions, ending nearly 13 years of exile in Beijing. Imagawa said Japan's main task will be to help Cambodia regain peace, rebuild its battered economy, and promote personnel exchanges for deeper mutual understanding.

He is scheduled to submit credentials to Sihanouk on November 18 as Japan's permanent representative to the SNC. The SNC will act as a reconciliation body until a democratic government is formed through U.N.-supervised free elections expected within the next 18 months.

Japan shut down its Phnom Penh mission in 1975 when the Khmer Rouge replaced a U.S.-backed government. The Chinese-backed regime was driven from power in early 1979 by invading Vietnamese troops, which installed the present government.

Phnom Penh Prepares To Welcome Sihanouk

BK1211072391 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0428 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK November 12—Phnom Penh City has been well made up to welcome Prince Sihanouk's return to the city and to preside over the next session of the Supreme National Council here. Streets and side-walks in the city, especially the "Soviet Union" Boulevard leading from Pochentong Airport to the city were cleaned and upgraded. Houses and lamp posts along the boulevards were already repaired and painted.

Most of the hotels have been upgraded to welcome foreign visitors and guests. The "Samaki Hotel", west of Vat Phnum, was renamed "Hotel Royal" a few months ago. The SNC headquarters, to be located at the "Government Hotel", was already repaired and the park inside was decorated in the pattern of the luxury hotel of Cambodiana.

The renovation of the royal palace was carried out a few months ago by a group of Western engineers and local architecturers [preceding word as received]. Both the royal palace and the silver pagoda were recently reopened to the public after being restored in honour of Prince Sihanouk's return.

The prince will reside at the palace performing his royal mission as chairman of the SNC for national reconciliation and unity after more than two decades of war. Hundreds of thousands of people, even the elderly, throughout the country are ready to pour into the city to welcome the prince's return scheduled for November 14.

According to the National Front source, more than 130,000 city dwellers, not counting those from different parts of the country will queue along the eight-kilometer-long road linking Pochentong airport to the city on that day. Public institutions and pagodas in the city will be reserved for people from various parts of the country to stay during that day and during the water festival to be organized here with the prince's participation. Lights along all main streets, at [words indistinct] and at the parks in the city are on all night and the curfew imposed in the city before was lifted last month.

Paper Previews Sihanouk's Schedule After Return

BK1111024991 Bangkok THE NATION in English 11 Nov 91 p A3

[Text] Cambodian Prince Sihanouk will have a heavy schedule during his first visit to his homeland in over a decade, with most of his engagements involving the reception of foreign dignitaries.

Among other engagements, he is to receive the diplomatic credentials from several ambassadors who are accredited to the Supreme National Council (SNC), a united Cambodian national representative body chaired by him. The Australian envoy is scheduled to be the first to call on the prince, followed by the French, Thai and Japanese ambassadors. China, North Korea, Indonesia, Vietnam and some Eastern European nations have said they will send ambassadors accredited to the SNC.

Apart from the diplomatic protocol, Sihanouk will also have to receive guests he invited from Thailand and France. Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin will arrive in Phnom Penh for a three-day official visit from Nov 20-22 and French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas from Nov 23-24. During his stay in Phnom Penh, the former monarch will pay his respects to the Emerald Buddha at the Royal Palace, and will give press conferences on Nov 16 and 21. He will also chair the three-day water festival in Phnom Penh and attend a regatta in front of his royal residence.

It is still not known how long Sihanouk will stay in his country and whether he will travel upcountry. Initially, he had planned to visit the world-renowned 12th-century Angkor archeological sites in Siem Reap. After leaving Cambodia, the prince is scheduled to visit Cambodian refugees in camps along the Thai-Cambodian border which belong to the three resistance parties.

It will be the prince's first return to his homeland in more than a decade. On Jan 5, 1979 he and his family narrowly escaped advancing Vietnamese troops, flying out on a plane provided by China. The Phnom Penh government has renovated several buildings within the Royal Palace to accommodate the prince and his entourage who will arrive in Phnom Penh next Thursday.

Sihanouk and his wife, Princess Monique, will be accompanied back from Beijing to the Cambodian capital by Prime Minister Hun Sen, who will leave tomorrow for China. Sihanouk is known to have been shuttling back and forth between China, North Korea, France and Thailand, but it has always been an open secret that the former monarch's greatest wish is to return to his homeland and spend his remaining years there.

Svay Rieng Hails SNC as Sole State Authority

BK1111041091 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 10 Nov 91

[Text] According to the national council in Romeas Hek District, our people in all communes in Romeas Hek District of Svay Rieng Province have expressed their warm welcome and full support to the agreement ending the Vietnamese war of aggression against Cambodia which was officially and solemnly signed in Paris on 23 October.

Our people regard this historic result as the common victory of the entire Cambodian nation and people both inside and outside the country as well as of all peace- and justice-loving people across the world in the past 13 years of their arduous struggle against the Vietnamese war of aggression.

At the same time, our people were of the opinion that many complex obstacles still exist because, on the one hand, this agreement ending the Vietnamese war of aggression against Cambodia is still just a legal matter on paper and, on the other hand, both covert and overt enemies have tried to carry out all kinds of maneuvers to destroy the Cambodian nation and people in order to seize the interests from the Cambodian nation and people.

Our people added that, for the Cambodian nation and people to enjoy genuine independence, peace, and the right to self-determination, it is imperative that all Cambodians:

First, join hands with the the SNC headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, UN forces, and the international community in effectively and correctly implementing all points of this agreement on ending the Vietnamese war of aggression against Cambodia.

Second, all Cambodians both inside and outside the country must [words indistinct] and respect the SNC headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, which is the only top, legitimate state organization of Cambodia both inside the country and in the international realm.

Only when all Cambodians respect the SNC, headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, as the sole legitimate state organization of Cambodia—when there are no longer two or three state authorities in Cambodia—can the agreement on ending the Vietnamese war of aggression against Cambodia be implemented and can there be national reconciliation, national harmony, and great national union.

VGNUFC Urges Implementation of Peace Accord

BK1111020691 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 10 Nov 91

[Station "article": "Cambodia Can Enjoy Genuine Independence and Peace Only When All Sides Correctly and Thoroughly Implement the Agreement on Settling the Vietnamese War of Aggression Against Cambodia"]

[Text] On 23 October in Paris, 19 countries, including members of the Supreme National Council [SNC], headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and Vietnam, officially, legally, and solemnly signed an agreement on the comprehensive political solution to end the Vietnamese war of aggression against Cambodia.

The gist of this agreement is as follows: The Vietnamese aggressors must withdraw from Cambodia under the joint supervision of the United Nations and the SNC, headed by the samdech. The SNC, headed by the samdech, is the sole source of power in Cambodia and representing Cambodian sovereignty. The SNC, headed by the samdech, and the transitional authority are to jointly arrange a free and general election in Cambodia to elect a new national assembly and government.

The Cambodian people inside and outside the country, along with people throughout the world, joyfully welcome and support this agreement because they realize that it is the best way to enable Cambodia to enjoy genuine independence and peace. This agreement ending the Vietnamese war of aggression is so far only a legal matter on paper, however, and it thus requires all sides to correctly and thoroughly implement it.

Therefore, to enable Cambodia to have genuine independence and peace and for the Cambodian people to really enjoy their right to self-determination, it is imperative that the SNC, headed by the samdech, all Cambodian people, the United Nations, and all peace- and justice-loving people across the world jointly implement this agreement on ending the Vietnamese war of aggression against Cambodia correctly and thoroughly.

VOK Sees Reversal of Domestic Situation

BK0911122591 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Political commentary: "The Cambodian People's Victory"]

[Text] We can consider 23 October 1991 an important day for Cambodia and a day of victory for the Cambodian people in general. On this date, an accord was signed which ended the conflict in Cambodia—a conflict that lasted for 21 years, since our Cambodian homeland went to war in 1970. The Cambodian people long awaited this day, 23 October 1991. As of this date, the war of aggression, acts of genocide, dictatorship, and all kinds of corrupt practices have been definitively brought to an end. The date certainly represents the Cambodian people's desire and a triumph for all of us.

We still recall that, in the wake of its military invasion of Cambodia in 1979, Vietnam and the faction it installed in power in Phnom Penh, repeatedly proclaimed that the situation in Cambodia at that time was irreversible. This meant that, if Vietnam had occupied Cambodia, it would have controlled the country forever. And yet, world evolution and the forces of the Cambodian resistance movement, actively supported and assisted by the Cambodian people, have reversed the situation in Cambodia.

Whether or not it was truthful, Vietnam in September 1989 reluctantly announced that it had decided to withdraw all its forces from Cambodia. On 23 October 1991 in Paris, the Vietnamese foreign minister agreed to sign the peace accord to end the conflict in Cambodia before the international community, and this is evidence that the situation has already been reversed. Besides, Vietnamese Leader Do Muoi recently acknowledged that Vietnam is to blame for sending troops into Cambodia. This was because Vietnam based its judgment only on military facts without having recourse to careful political analysis.

In sum, we have concluded that the war of aggression in Cambodia has already come to an end, and our current duty is to do away with the remaining communist elements. This involves eliminating invaders hidden in jungles or mingling among civilians, and so on, and this task will be carried out in conjuncion with a UN force that will be present in Cambodia as of this month to safeguard the (?Cambodian) victory.

The victory we have achieved over the Vietnamese aggressors is also a triumph over the acts of genocide and all sorts of despotic and corrupt practices. The document that all the Cambodian parties signed in Paris signifies that free elections will be organized in Cambodia with the participation of all political parties that have at least 5,000 members. This certainly represents the return to the people of their proper rights.

The elections in Cambodia should be fair, because they are to be organized by the United Nations, a top international body. The Cambodian people should cooperate with the United Nations to make the elections fully effective. By all appearances, free, correct, and fair elections represent the Cambodian people's ardent desire and their victory. The Cambodian people will never cast their ballots for the genocidal group, the dictatorial group, or the corrupt group—come hell or high water.

The victory is already in the people's hands after a tenacious protracted struggle of 13 years. Therefore, our ongoing role is to safeguard this success for our children of the present generation and those of the generations to come at all times.

The Voice of the Khmer wishes to welcome this victory and pledges to join forces with all levels of the Cambodian people to preserve victory at all costs.

Radio Describes Efforts on Water Problem

BK0911093391 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Text] The situation in the localities presents problems for our people every year, particularly for those who live far from river banks, lakes, ponds, rivers, and canals. In the rainy season there is too much water, while in the dry season there is a scarcity of water for human beings, animals, and crop growing. The water problem is a basic one, as water plays a strategic and essential role in the economy and in our people's lives.

Our people in Chikreng and Stoung Districts in particular have paid attention to vigorously and actively solving the water problem. Our people realize that water is very important, as it affects the economy and life in general. In all the districts, when water is scarce, our people in each village have paid attention to the problem by discussing among themselves the need to restore old wells and dig new ones. To this day, these wells have water for use all year round. Furthermore, in some areas, our people have dug small ponds and raised small sections of dikes to further preserve water in the rainy season to grow crops and raise animals throughout the year.

Each village has the ability to make a thorough search for water in this manner. For each family with two or three members, digging a well for five or six days—depending on the depth of the well—would provide enough clean water for family consumption because, geographically, the soil conditions in our Cambodia permit wells to be dug in the folllowing way. For 20 percent of the wells, digging between 2 and 3 meters will provide enough water throughout the year; 30 percent of the wells need to be dug to a depth of between 3 and 4 meters; for another 20 percent of the wells, the depth will be between 6 and 7 meters; the depth of another 20 percent of the wells is between 9, 10, and 12 meters; another 10 percent of the wells need to be sunk to a depth of 20 meters or more to get water all year round.

Thus, in term of percentage, 90 percent of the soil in our Cambodia fully allows each family or a group of families to sink wells. Only with wells, water reservoirs, and sections of dikes can water be retained. With water, crops can grow, animals can be raised around the house, and there can be hygiene; also, successful development can be achieved.

UNAMIC Head Comments on UN Mission's Role

BK1211071991 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0437 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK November 12—A press conference on a U.N. Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC) was held in Phnom Penh Monday [11 November] morning. Speaking on the occasion, Ataul Karim, head of the mission, said that his team comprised 268 military and civil personnel, that its mission would last six months which would cost about 19 million U.S. dollars. Its task was a preparatory operation for the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), he said. "The mission will supervise the ceasefire, make liaison among the Khmer warring factions in case of any ceasefire violation, conduct mine clearance [words indistinct] Secretary General", he said.

On the military equipment of UNAMIC and its headquarters, the head of the mission said that his mission would not be armed with heavy weapons and that its task was a military liaison. "UNAMIC" would have five command posts in Cambodia and its general headquarters in Phnom Penh, said Mr. Karim, adding that his mission would see to it that there would not be any more clash between the Cambodian warring factions, as they already agreed to assign the task to the mission and trusted it. "The mission would be responsible for any such event", Mr. Karim said.

UN Troops To Fully Deploy Within 'Three Weeks'

BK1111064791 Hong Kong AFP in English 0616 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] PHNOM PENH, Nov 11 (AFP)—The first United Nations ceasefire observer troops will reach their posts at headquarters of the respective Cambodian factions by the end of the month, their top official here said Monday.

The Australian blue berets—40 communications specialists who arrived Sunday in the first U.N. Advanced Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC) contingent—will begin leaving for their posts in the next few days and be fully deployed in three weeks, Lieutenant Colonel Russell Stuart said. "We have come lightly armed," he told reporters, adding that the soldiers did not anticipate having to use their weapons. "I don't see myself or other soldiers in a combat situation," Stuart said. The troops will be "actually in the heart of each army ... right in the center beside the commander."

"I believe that is a very secure place to be" because each faction "has given guarantees and taken responsibility for (our) safety," he said.

Meanwhile, UNAMIC chief Ataul Karim said French Brigadier General Michel Loridon would lead the military part of the operation. The U.N. Security Council was not due to consider the matter until Monday. The United States had made Loridon's appointment conditional on the appointment of an Australian to lead the larger peacekeeping operation six months from now.

The four factions, which just ended nearly 13 years of civil war, have invited the troops into their headquarters under a U.N. peace treaty. The Australians will operate the communications among all sides, including the Khmer Rouge guerrillas and the Phnom Penh government troops. Five men will be stationed permanently at each headquarters, with the smallest missions comprising three men.

Stuart said he could not give the exact locations of each command for security reasons, but said he was confident that each post was the actual headquarters of each faction.

The head of UNAMIC, Bangladeshi Ataul Karim, said that if the troops observe ceasefire violations or meet danger themselves, U.N. headquarters in New York would be contacted immediately for a decision on how to respond. "We will report it to the Security Council and await instruction," he said. "With the state of modern telecommunications, I am confident of our ability to do that."

UNAMIC is expected to include 270 U.N. military troops and civilians plus a 110-member French contingent. Loridon was to arrive with the French on Tuesday, Karim said. All 380 people will arrive by mid-December and stay six months until the formation of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia, he said.

UNHCR Grants Funds to Ponhea Loe District

BK1111063891 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0508 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK November 11—The U.N. High Commission for Refugees has funded 34,834,264 riels for constructing public utilities and buying farm tools for Phsa Dek commune, Ponhea Loe district, Kandal province.

The funds was initiated by representatives of the High Commission for Refugees for buying 138 draught animals, six ox-carts and two pumping machines, and for building a weaving workshop with five semi-automatic looms, a rice-husking mill, three school buildings, a kindergarten, and five health-care centres. The school buildings, kindergarten and health-care centres have been inaugurated recently by Mi Samedi, deputy minister of public health, in the presence of representatives of the HCR.

UN Delegation Tours Battambang, Kompong Speu

BK0911064691 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0225 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK November 8—A United Nations aid delegation made on November 4 a tour of Battambang Province to study its needs in the fields of communication, agriculture and social affairs, especially the issue of war refugees in camps.

The delegation included representatives of the UNICEF, UNESCO, UNHCR [UN High Commissioner for Refugees], UNDP [UN Development Program] and FAO [UN Food and Agriculture Organization]. It visited the Sangke health centre, the technical school, the rice strain selecting farm, a portion of the highway linking the provincial town to Bavel District, and the war refugees camp in O Taki Commune, Battambang District.

For the same purpose, the representative of the WFP [World Food Program], ESCAP [UN Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific] and FAO visited Kompong Speu Province, 50 km west of Phnom Penh. They came to see the distribution of relief aid by the Cambodian Red Cross to 700 families of flood victims in Phnum Sruoch District. These families received a total of 50 tonnes of husked rice donated by the WFP. The delegation also called at a war refugees camp in Krang Ambel Commune.

Refugees Return Home From Indonesia

BK0911083991 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0458 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK November 9—Fourteen Cambodian families, who fled the country by boat and stayed at Galand Camps, Indonesia, have returned here voluntarily by plane. According to the Cambodian Red Cross, the repatriation was made with the permission of the State of Cambodia and under the auspices of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Among the families of 19 members, five families had their homes in Phnom Penh, four in Kompong Som City, one in Battambang Province, and four in Kampot Province. The repatriates expressed their joy upon returning to the country and their thanks to the government which had allowed them to come back. This was the third batch of Cambodian refugees returning from Galand Camps.

UN Soldiers Say People 'Nervous' About Peace

BK1111074091 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] An Australian military communications team in Phnom Penh is now laying the groundwork for its deployment as part of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cambodia. Indochina correspondent Nicholas Stewart says the 40 Australians from a Signals Unit are awaiting supplies after arriving in the Cambodian capital late yesterday.

[Begin Stewart recording] The signals will form the core of the UN force helping different factions to communicate with one another. Soldiers from other countries will arrive later this week. The contingent will monitor the cease-fire between the various factions, including the Khmer Rouge. The Cambodian guerrillas have been allowed to keep 30 percent of their weapons and people are nervous that the fragile peace will break. [end recording]

Paper Terms Constitution 'Most Liberal' in Region

BK1311031791 Bangkok THE NATION in English 13 Nov 91 p A4

[Text] Phnom Penh— Cambodia's new "French-style" constitution is expected to be adopted before the deployment of United Nations peace-keeping forces, authoritative sources said yesterday. The constitution, which would be almost identical to the French version, will be deliberated and subsequently approved by an extraordinary session of the National Assembly in the near future.

The new charter is aimed at improving the Phnom Penh Government's image after pursuing a liberal and democratic ideal. "It is a gift to Sihanouk," said one source. The prince has said repeatedly the future Cambodia must have a new constitution with liberal ideas as contained in the French Constitution.

The source said there will be some reshuffles among top ministries to "brighten up" the government before the complete deployment of UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] which is expected to come to its full strength within the next six months. The constitution, the most liberal and democratic in an Indochinese country, will empower the country's president to appoint the prime minister including other ministerial posts.

It also pledges to respect human rights including freedom of speech, press, assembly and movement. Recently, the government here released 1,034 political prisoners including former minister of communications and transport Ung Phan and his colleagues. The sources said the constitution will contain a new electoral law, which stipulates that any Cambodian citizen over the age of 25, who has Cambodian parents who are residents in the country, is eligible to be a political candidate.

The new constitution was the outcome of the recent party congress, which saw the Pracheachon Party, formerly People's Revolutionary's Party of Kampuchea, dumping the Marxist-Leninist ideology. Instead, the ruling party adopted a liberal and democratic platform with a multiparty system with a free market economic system.

Bank Governor Says Economy 'Moving Forward'

BK1211023391 Bangkok THE NATION in English 12 Nov 91 p B1

[Text] Cambodia, its economy wrecked by years of war, sees for the first time an encouraging economic prospect—at least for the coming months—with the advent of the United Nations' peacekeeping forces.

Cha Rieng, 64, governor of the National Bank of Cambodia, told THE NATIONAL in an interview yesterday that despite a lack of foreign assistance this year, Cambodia's economy is moving forward.

The progress has been possible due to tighter controls over financial policy, illegal foreign exchange, and the tax collection system.

Cambodia used to receive nearly bt [Thai baht] 2.5 billion annually, including arms and economic assistance, from the Soviet Union and its Eastern Bloc allies. But after the collapse of the communist system in those countries, outside assistance first dwindled, and then altogether disappeared.

Cha Rieng said the inflation rate in the past two months has been steady, as the country is no longer under the "siege mentality of war." In the past, the Khmer Rouge's attacks in the provinces drove up commodity prices and led to the hoarding of goods.

"In the absence of fighting, the panic which caused prices to soar is no longer there," he said. He expressed concern that the price of food and basic necessities, however, has increased. "The government has tried to fix prices, but the market economy does not listen," he lamented.

An average civil servant earns about Bt300 monthly while basic food such as beef costs about Bt50 per kilo. A kilo of sugar costs Bt10, and the price of one egg is Bt2. The government has tried to trim the huge bureaucracy by offering compensation and fringe benefits. But only 13,000 of the estimated 110,000 government officials have voluntarily quit their jobs.

At the end of last year and early this year, inflation reached its highest ever at about 400 per cent because of rumours about the imminent failure of the peace talks and the governemnt's plan to cancel old banknotes, according to Cha Rieng.

In order to facilitate trade and business, the government last week introduced a new 500-riel banknote, printed in Moscow, which is the biggest denomination so far. Early next year, the government is planning to issue a 1,000-riel banknote, "as things are getting expensive and you have to carry a big bundle of money to buy things."

This year the government has allocated a budget of 4.5 billion riel or Bt157 million. But the government's expected revenue from tax and excise collection will be about 3.3 billion riel, or Bt15.5 million, leaving a budget deficit of 1.2 billion riel, or about Bt41.5 million.

"The government will try to sell factories, other government enterprises, and property to raise the money," Cha Rieng said.

Beginning this year, he said the government has improved its tax collection system to increase the country's money reserves. "So far, it has not worked very well; there are still loopholes," he said.

Dozens of blackmarketeers, including illegal foreign exchange dealers, were arrested but released after a short term in prison. The government has passed legislation outlawing unauthorized foreign exchange dealing and free trading of gold, which is a key item in determining the state of economy.

He said the government, after months of reluctance, has agreed to allow traders to bring in gold to stabilize the price of gold, which now costs about 450,000 riel for one tael. One tael equals 37.4290 grammes.

The prospect of a stable riel currency in the future is good, as the UN peace-keeping forces are expected to pour at least Bt25 billion into Cambodia's economy in the next year or two.

"I think those speculators and illegal foreign exchange dealers will go out of business because there will be a lot dollars. Certainly, the UN money will go through the banking system," he said.

Cha Rieng said with more hard currency available to the public—unlike now when only a few traders have access to hard currency—the gap between the official and black market rate will narow. At the National Bank of Cambodia, US$1 dollar can fetch 1,000 riel, while the black market offers 1,200 riel.

Beginning today, he said, the government will use its appointed local gold dealers to determine the content of gold to standardize gold trading in Cambodia. "There are too many kinds of qualities of gold in the market right now. We would like to have one standard gold quality," he said. At the moment, there is only one appointed gold dealer who will issue a certificate to guarantee the quality and content.

Cha Rieng said by the end of this year two more foreign banks, one from Hungary and the other from France, will be operating in Phnom Penh. At the moment, the Cambodian Commercial Bank, a joint venture between the National Bank of Cambodia and Thailand's Commercial Bank, is the only foreign bank here.

Cambodia has a population of 8.5 million and is considered one of the poorest nations in the world.

Indonesia

Troops Reportedly Attack Civilians in East Timor

Student Describes Killings

LD1211204191 Lisbon RDP Commercial Radio Network in Portuguese 1900 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] We have managed to contact a student belonging to the East Timorese resistance who has given us an account of the early morning killing by Jakarta troops of dozens of East Timorese, who had gathered at the Santa Cruz cemetery to pay homage to their compatriot Sebastiao Gomes, who was shot dead by Indonesian forces on 28 October. Over 50 have been confirmed dead, while the number of those wounded and detained remains unclear. Other sources speak of over 100 dead. Here is the student's account:

[Begin recording] At 0630 local time, the Indonesian soldiers opened fire on a crowd gathered to pay homage to Sebastiao Gomes Rangel, killed two weeks ago. The homage involved approximately 4,000 people and began with a mass at the Motael church, after which the crowd marched from Motael to Santa Cruz cemetery. It was then that the troops fired on the crowd.

Many of those present told me that over 100 people had been killed, but we still do not know their names, because the Santa Cruz area was immediately cordoned off by the military and no one was allowed in. [end recording]

The student said that many of the dead were taken to the military hospital, while the wounded were taken out of Dili.

[Begin recording] The dead were taken away in two or three trucks. The others, those who were still alive, were taken away in five trucks toward the locality of Farol. The trucks with the dead drove toward the military hospital.

Some of the wounded managed to escape. Some have sought shelter in the bishop's residence, and the others, probably through fear, are hiding in their homes. [end recording]

Dili is now a city under siege. After physical violence comes its psychological equivalent. Patrols are ever-present in the streets, looking for members of the resistance.

[Begin recording] The troops are about 70 battalions strong, which means approximately 50,000 to 70,000 soldiers. There are soldiers in every village of East Timor; their main goal is to prevent the circulation of civilians. There are also special military units engaged in operations against the Falintil guerrillas. [end recording]

With troops patrolling the streets, the East Timorese are finding it impossible to contact the UN representative in Dili because his hotel has been cordoned off.

Military: Riot 'Under Control'

BK1211123391 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Excerpt] A riot instigated by the East Timor GPK [Security Disturbance Movement] in Dili this morning is now under control. A press release issued by the Indonesian Armed Forces Information Service in Jakarta today said the riot took place at 0730 Central Indonesian Time [2330 GMT] after a group of East Timor GPK performed mass at the Motael church in Dili and headed to the provincial governor's office for a protest rally. Security authorities had unsuccessfully tried to disperse the wild mob through persuasive means. The mob had instead attacked the security personnel on duty, which resulted in several casualties, including a deputy battalion commander of the security forces.

Meanwhile, a Dili RRI correspondent quoted Brigadier General Warouw, commander of the East Timor Operation Command, as saying that several rifles, grenades, and documents were seized from the mob. [passage omitted]

Witness, Australian Envoy Comment

BK1311023291 Hong Kong AFP in English 0218 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] SYDNEY, Nov 13 (AFP)—United States citizen Amy Goodman said Wednesday she witnessed the massacre by Indonesian troops of defenceless people carrying only banners and a cross in East Timor on Tuesday. Goodman, in Guam after fleeing from East Timor, said in a radio interview broadcast here that "tremendous gunfire" left dozens of people lying in the street before she managed to escape in a truck.

Estimates range from 20 to 100 dead in the shooting in the capital, Dili, where thousands of East Timorese were marching in commemoration of a young man allegedly killed by Indonesian security forces two weeks ago.

Goodman was in Dili as an official observer to a planned Portuguese parliamentary visit, recently postponed after a disagreement with the Indonesian Government. She told how she and injured American journalist Alan Nairn pleaded for their lives as soldiers beat them with rifle butts and kicked and punched them.

"We've heard the people saying afterwards that there were somewhere around 50 people who were killed," she said in the interview broadcast by the Australian Broadcasting Corp. "We went to the hospital, and there were many people who were, at that point, being operated on and just lying on the floors with gunshot wounds. This was a massacre."

People of all ages, including old women in traditional dress, had joined a funeral procession as it moved toward the cemetery where the young man was buried, Goodman said.

Then the army converged in two places, she said. She and Nairn had moved to the front to show their press credentials, hoping to prevent confrontation by showing the soldiers it would be documented in the West. "That certainly was no protection," she said. "So they beat me and dragged me over and started slamming me with rifle butts and kicks and punches. Then Alan jumped on top of me, and they beat him very badly."

The soldiers then opened fire on the crowd, Goodman said. They beat her and Nairn into a corner, then moved toward them with M-16 rifles, she said. "We just pleaded and said, 'We're from America,'" she said.

A truck passed while the soldiers had their guns pointed at the pair, and they managed to escape to safety, Goodman said. They reached the airport in time to catch a flight from the island. "These were truly defenceless people," she added. "They had nothing but some banners and the commemorative cross for this young man, Sebastiao (Gomes, the earlier victim)."

Indonesia's Ambassador to Australia Sabam Siagian later Wednesday expressed regret over the reported massacre, but refused to confirm any deaths. Siagian, who was called to Australia's Foreign Affairs Department to explain the killings, later in talking to journalists acknowledged only that there had been injuries on both sides in the shooting incident in Dili. "(We are) very regretful of the victims of both sides, on the people, and also on the security apparatus in Dili," he said.

Prime Minister Bob Hawke, who had been planning a visit to Indonesia next February was expected to make a statement to the Australian Parliament at 2:00 p.m. (0100 GMT). Government sources said it was not known whether the killings would affect the visit.

Australian Government MP Garrie Gibson said in a radio interview he would expect Hawke and Foreign Minister Gareth Evans to protest vigorously about the incident which he likened to events in Kuwait earlier this year.

Gibson, a member of an East Timor parliamentary support group, said Australia had participated in the military action to eject Iraqi President Saddam Husayn from Kuwait. Saddam's actions in Kuwait were very similar to what Suharto's forces were doing in East Timor, he said. "So I hope that the foreign minister will be consistent in his concern that he has expressed and take up these issues most strenuously with the Indonesian military government."

Gibson said the Indonesian military had been continuously accused of abuse of human rights including violence, torture and the disappearance of East Timorese.

Witnesses Tell of 'Unprovoked Slaughter'

BK1311080691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0742 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Report by Jack Taylor]

[Text] SYDNEY, Nov 13 (AFP)—The shooting by Indonesian troops of funeral mourners in East Timor was nothing less than a "deliberate and unprovoked slaughter," two U.S. journalists who witnessed the bloodbath said Wednesday.

New York-based journalists Allan Nairn and Amy Goodman told AFP from their hospital beds in Guam how they were being beaten with rifle butts as the slaughter went on around them Tuesday in the East Timorese capital of Dili. To try to prevent confrontation, they placed themselves between the troops and a crowd of mourners who had marched at the funeral of a young man killed by Indonesian security forces two weeks ago.

The crowd, estimated by Nairn at perhaps 5,000 strong, was boxed into a compound between the high walls of two cemetaries. Without warning, two columns of troops in green uniforms and red-striped helmets lined themselves around the crowd, took aim and started firing automatic rifles in what the Americans described as cold deliberation. When the firing stopped an estimated 50 to 60 lay dead and many more lay moaning with bullet wounds, Nairn said.

Nairn and Goodman disagreed with a suggestion made by Indonesia's ambassador to Australia, Sabam Siagian, to Australia's foreign affairs department that the army commander involved had been provoked.

A truck got between the two journalists and the troops, allowing them to escape to Dili's airport. They caught a flight to Guam where they were were treated for superficial but painful wounds in hospital Wednesday.

Nairn, a 36-year-old reporter with THE NEW YORKER magazine, said at the time of the massacre the people were doing nothing. "It was not a panic situation," he said by phone. "The march was over. The people were standing in front of the cemetery, a large crowd, maybe 5,000.

"It was completely unprovoked. The crowd was backpeddling.

"The soldiers moved in from two sides. They were wearing green uniforms, helmets with red stripes on them.

"One group was in a truck, another group of hundreds were walking down, brandishing their M-16's (rifles), walking very deliberately.

"As the troops rounded the corner, some disposed of us and they began firing into the crowd. They had us down on the pavement beating us at one point.

"The largest contingent in the crowd was young men, but there were women, children, middle aged and old people.

"The bodies fell around us and in front of us. I would say many dozens were shot. Well-informed people were saying between 50 and 60, and that is quite possible.

"Three army trucks with bodies stacked up on them drove away.

"Many were wounded, they were lying all over the place with bullet wounds in them.

"This was not a situation that spiralled out of control. Things were very quiet before it happened.

"I have worked in Central America, Guatemala, El Salvador and situations like that, but I have never seen anything like it."

Goodman, news editor with New York's WBAI Pacifica Radio, also described the massacre as "deliberate and unprovoked."

"It was not like a dramatic clash where people came round the corner and were confronting each other," Goodman said.

"The Timorese didn't do anything to the troops. They just chanted *'Viva Timor l'Este'.* These were truly defenceless people.

"They were standing still. The Indonesians came from two perpendicular streets and joined together, about 50 of them from a truck, the others walking in a column.

"Some of them beat us, and the others shot into the crowd.

"It is quite a sight to have a line of soldiers coming slowly up, lining up, screaming and firing into the crowd." She said that although their actions were coldly deliberate, they appeared to be in a rage, "and screaming at the top of their lungs."

"We watched them like it was in slow motion. We got in between the troops and the people because we hoped our presence would stop them, but we didn't of course.

"They beat me and dragged me over and started slamming me with rifle butts and kicks and punches.

"Part of the reason why I didn't sustain the kind of wounds Allan did was that he threw himself on top of me, which was very brave of him, but they beat him very badly," said Goodman.

"Then the troops lined up along the street right in front of the crowd and shot and shot and shot.

"They had different rounds of shooting. They did at different times.

"I have seen people dying all around me. I have been in demonstrations. But this was an all-out slauughter. It was absolutely incredible.

"At first I thought they were going to shoot into the air and somebody said it was blanks, but they were not. They shot into the crowd, some of whom were just eight years old."

House Speaker Doubts Reports

BK1311063091 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0600 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] House Speaker Kharis Suhud is confident that the security authorities will be able to restore order in Dili, East Timor. Speaking to reporters after meeting with President Suharto at Jakarta's Merdeka Palace this morning, Kharis Suhud expressed skepticism over the reports on the situation in Dili that have been carried by foreign media, especially in Radio Australia broadcasts. Commenting on the situation in Dili, he called on people to remain calm and carry out their normal daily activities.

Horta on Reasons for Unrest

LD1311072291 Lisbon RDP Commercial Radio Network in Portuguese 0000 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] Xanana Gusmao, the leader of the East Timorese resistance, has sent a letter to the president of the Assembly of the Republic through his personal representative Ramos Horta. The letter says that Gusmao is determined to unleash rebellion throughout the territory, as his long inaction has prompted the East Timorese to wonder about the reasons for his attitude.

Ramos Horta spoke to the president of the Assembly of the Republic about the frame of mind of the East Timorese following the cancellation of the Portuguese parliamentarians' visit. He said that they feel like they have been deserted yet again, and that Portugal used Indonesia's veto on journalist Jill Jolliffe's inclusion in the delegation as a pretext because the willingness to go to East Timor was never really there.

The meeting with Barbosa de Melo, the new president of the Assembly of the Republic, had already been scheduled, but the recent developments undoubtedly give it greater acuity. Ramos Horta believes that Portugal should ask the UN Security Council to meet.

[Horta] "In light of the present situation in the territory, for the past few days I have been urging the convening of the UN Security Council. We know that such a meeting would only be viable if Portugal were to undertake extensive lobbying in the European capitals and in Washington."

Ramos Horta will not just wait for Portuguese initiatives. He has been pressuring the international community and is hopeful of good results.

[Horta] "Following my stay in London, and knowing what is happening in various capitals, I believe that there exists a mood of true displeasure and disgust with Indonesia's policy. I know, for example, that Jan Pronk, the Netherlands cooperation minister who chairs an international consortium of countries that give Indonesia financial support, is clearly fed up with the Indonesians.

"Moreover, with the end of the cold war and of the military blocs, no Third World country, Indonesia included, will be able to continue to exploit the East-West conflict to secure the West's support. The West is therefore in a good position to pressure Indonesia. I believe that this may happen."

Horta's views differ from those expressed by Domingos Oliveira, secretary general of the Timor Democratic Union, who has blamed the Portuguese authorities for what is happening in East Timor.

[Horta] "Not at all. The massacres, the atrocities, and the whole reign of terror has been going on for months. There was a increase from August onward. I am very well acquainted with what is happening on the ground and, if the Portuguese parliamentarians had gone ahead with the visit, while there might not have been a bloodbath while they were here, it might have happened immediately afterwards. Be that as it may, there was violence taking place during the run-up to the planned date of the visit."

Ramos Horta will be leaving later today for Paris, where he will be accompanied by Mrs. Miterrand at a news conference on the situation in East Timor.

Sutrisno Called To Investigate

BK1311050491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0446 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Excerpt] Jakarta, Nov 13 (AFP)—Casualty figures remained vague and unconfirmed a day after Indonesian troops fired into a crowd in East Timor, with various sources putting the death toll between nine and 115 people Wednesday.

Newspapers mostly carried the official military statement on the incident, which contained no casualty figures, but the Media Indonesian daily said without naming sources that nine rioters were killed and one army officer injured.

Media quoted Major General Sintong Panjaitan, the military commander for eastern Indonesia, as saying troops had confiscated three hand grenades, one hand gun and one German-made G-3 rifle from the crowd.

The Bandung-based PIKIRAN RAKYAT also said, without giving any source, that 20 people had been killed or wounded in the incident. A Western diplomat Wednesday quoted high-placed military sources as having said that some 20 people had died but that the figure could still rise as others were severely wounded.

The Indonesian Legal Aid Institute (LBH) quoted its chapter in Dili as saying 115 people had died in "an armed attack" on a funerary procession at a Dili cemetery Tuesday morning. The figure was contained in a letter dated November 12 and addressed to Military Chief General Try Sutrisno in which LBH called on the commander to form a "verification team" to investigate the incident and publish the findings to the public "openly and honestly." [passage omitted]

Says 50 Killed

BK1311083491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0827 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] JAKARTA, Nov 13 (AFP)—The chief of Indonesia's armed forces said Wednesday that 50 people "at the most" were killed and 20 others injured when troops opened fire on a crowd of funeral mourners Tuesday in East Timor.

General Try Sutrisno giving the first official casualty figures, told reporters that the death toll was not as high as the news media overseas had reported. "If the foreign press said 100 had died, that is too much. The number of those who died, I am certain, would not reach 100, let us say 50 at the most, 20 injured, and no foreigners are among the victims," Try said.

He added that "several tens of people" had been arrested, and hand grenades, guns and knives seized. He also said the authorities would conduct a "thorough investigation" into the causes of the bloodshed. "I myself express regrets over this incident because, whatever the incident, the loss of life is always regretted," the general said at the presidential office.

Witnesses have said that Indonesian troops opened fired Tuesday into a crowd at Santa Cruz cemetery in Dili, capital of East Timor, that had gathered for a funeral for a young Timorese who was killed October 28. Try said a crowd had left Motael church in Dili after a service, then moved towards a hotel and the governor's office, "yelling hysterically, pelting shops and a police post" along the way.

Security forces tried to impose order through "sympathetic and persuasive" means, but failed, the general said, adding that the situation became more chaotic when an army major was stabbed. Try blamed the Fretilin movement, which has sought independence for the former Portugese colony, for the incident.

"The Fretilin ... are now cornered. They do not have a place in the villages (because) we have conducted territorial operations. They are not in forests anymore either, so they struggle in the cities," he said.

Try said the Fretilin "was making every effort possible to make their existence known. Because they could no longer stay in forests, they moved to the city. That is logical." He said that since Tuesday, authorities had confiscated hand grenades, guns and knives.

Explains Military's 'Stern Action'

BK1311110991 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0956 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Jakarta, Nov 13 (OANA-ANTARA)—The Indonesian Armed Forces (ABRI) were forced to take a stern action in the Tuesday morning riot in East Timor as the persuasive way that it applied had come to no avail, ABRI Commander General Try Sutrisno said here Wednesday. He regretted that victims had fallen in the riot, but stressed that ABRI officers "had no other choices" to restore order.

According to Gen. Sutrisno the riot began when some members of GPK (Security Disturbing Movement) brutally pelted various shops and police stations. Seeing such a situation, the local security officers tried to disperse them in a persuasive way, he said adding that however, the GPK members then turned to attack the officers with some weapons.

The movement in East Timor has also tried to enter urban areas but people should remain calm as the situation is now under control, Gen. Sutrisno said.

GPK members early Tuesday in the provincial capital of East Timor sparked a riot which killed nine and injured several others including a deputy commander of the local military battalion. "People should remain alert as well so that they will not be easily influenced by misleading rumors spread by GPK in urban areas," he added.

Gen. Sutrisno conceded that in the youngest province of Indonesia remnants of GPK (Fretilin) [Revolutionary Front For An Independent East Timor] were still around although "they were very small in number and poorly armed." The military is determined to phase them out, he said, adding that GPK members now had "no space to move around" in the jungle and small villages due to ABRI's military operations.

Therefore, it is just logical that they now try to enter urban areas to make use of "any available opportunities," he said. "Some military officers were injured including the deputy commander of the local battalion in the Tuesday incident. This obviously forced us to take immediate measures to control the situation," he said.

The riot was the second to take place in East Timor in the past two weeks.

On October 28, a brawl involving an anti-Indonesia group also occured in the youngest province of Indonesia in which two, Alfonso and Sebastian Gomez, were killed. The brawl started when a group of youngsters pelted two passers- by from a house next to the Motael Church in Dili. The passers-by, then returned with their friends, turning the area in and around the Motael Church into a scene of a riot.

About the Tuesday morning incident, Gen. Sutrisno expressed disappointment over the use of a church as a place to arrange and prepare a riot as could be seen from some weapons and posters found inside the place of worship. According to the ABRI commander, the military had paid a serious attention to the religious life in the pre-dominantly Catholic East Timor that it was also willing to jointly construct some churches with the local people.

In view of this, he asked church officials to also make sure that their places of worship were not used by the Security Disturbing Movement. "Do not let such places be disturbed either by outsiders or by anyone from the churches themselves," he said.

Gen. Sutrisno said in the past two years ABRI had carried out territorial operation so that the welfare of the East Timorese would improve rapidly. In the territorial approach, ABRI applied a persuasive method which is in line with the spirit of openness in East Timor, he said adding that nevertheless, ABRI would not be reluctant to take stern actions against those trying to disturb the security or ruin development plans and national stability.

He reminded as well that ABRI was not the one who started the recent riots. "Everything began from the irresposible GPK," he said. He denied reports that around 100 were killed in the incident. "So far only nine deaths have been confirmed. The figure may increase later, but foreign reports saying around 100 have been dead in East Timor are false," Gen. Sutrisno said.

Nevertheless he did not rule out the possibility that some 100 people might have been wounded in the incident. "The reports have been exaggerating the number of fatalities. And there was not foreigners among the injured, either," he said adding that by chance when the riot took place there was an American and a Briton in Dili. [sentence as received]

The two have now gone to Kupang, the provincial capital of the nearby East Nusatenggara province, he said. Gen. Sutrisno ruled out the possibility of making East Timor a closed province after the riot.

Laos

PRC Cultural Group Meets Sipaseut, Departs

BK1311052091 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1400 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Phoun Sipaseut, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, received Xu Wenbo, deputy culture minister of the PRC, at the Foreign Affairs Ministry in Vientiane this morning. The guest and host spoke in an atmosphere of neighborly friendship and cordiality.

On this occasion, Phoun Sipaseut welcomed Xu Wenbo and his delegation's visit to Laos. He said the visit has contributed to promoting bilateral cultural relations ever more effectively.

Xu Wenbo, in return, informed Phoun Sipaseut of the satisfactory outcome of his delegation's working visit to Laos.

On the afternoon of 11 November, the PRC delegation presented musical instruments, including a (?violin) [names of two other musical instruments indistinct], worth more than 20,000 yuan to the Lao Information and Culture Ministry. The delegation left for home on the afternoon of 12 November.

Chinese Airlines Launches Inaugural Flight

BK1211093691 Vientiane KPL in English 0859 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Nov 12 (KPL)—The Lao Aviation and the China Southern Airlines, on November 10 launched the preliminary international flight between Guang Zhou-Kunming-Vientiane by China Southern Boeing 737-500, the aircraft to be used on this route at the initial stage.

The heads of the two airlines companies attending the ceremony at the Wattai airport said the Lao-Chinese cooperation in civil aviation was an important move reflecting increasingly developed relationship and cooperation between the two countries. The flight will obviously help facilitate communication and contacts between the people of the two rountries, they added.

Japanese Aid for Narcotics Suppression Committee

BK0911113091 Vientiane KPL in English 0921 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Text] Vientiane, Nov 9 (KPL)—Japanese Ambassador to Laos Shigemi Ando, on November 7, on behalf of his government, presented over 5.7 million yen worth of aid to Deputy Foreign Minister Souban Salitthilat, who is also chairman of the National Committee for Narcotic Control and Suppression.

The aid includes one car, one motorbike, one set of videos and some other equipment. The Lao deputy foreign minister thanked the Japanese Government's effort in narcotics control and suppression.

Seminar on Road Building With Sweden Opens

BK1211111691 Vientiane KPL in English 0911 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Vientiane, Nov 12 (KPL)—The two-day seminar on Lao-Swedish cooperation in road building was opened yesterday at the Lan Xang hotel here. The aim of the seminar was to step up better coordination and cooperation in the future.

Attending the inaugural session were Mr. Himmakon Manotham and Mr. Noi Indavong, deputy ministers construction; Ms. Khampheng Phonsena, deputy minister of the External Economic Relations Ministry; Mr. Per Gustav Kokeritz, charge d'affaires of Swedish Embassy to Laos; Swedish road building experts, officials responsible for the construction of Road No.13 and others.

Addressing the inaugural speech, Mr. Himmakon Manotham talked of the importance of the workshop which was to improve the quality of the cooperation between the Lao and Swedish Governments in comunication network building, particularly the building of the strategic Highway No. 13 linking the north from Pak Mong (Luang Prabang Province) to southern Champassak Province. This road, which eventually links the Lao-Cambodian border, is over 1,000 KM [kilometer]. The asphalting work is expected to be completed in 1996.

Vientiane Celebrates October Revolution

BK0811123091 Vientiane KPL in English 0912 GMT 8 Nov 91

[Text] Vientiane, Nov 8 (KPL) - Lao President Kaysone Phomvihan has sent to President Mikhail Gorbachev of the USSR a telegram of congratulations on the 74th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution.

The Lao president was convinced of the further developing relations of friendship and cooperation between Laos and the Soviet Union to the common interest of their peoples and of the world peace. He also wished the Soviet leader and people happiness and success in overcoming the difficulties and advancing along the path they have chosen.

To mark the same event, a mass meeting was organised yesterday at the polytechnic school with a large audience including minister of communication Bouathong, who is also president of the Lao-Soviet Friendship Association, the Soviet charge d'affaires and the representative of the Soviet-Lao Friendship Association in Laos. The director of the school, Mr. Bounheng, addressed the audience indicating the global significance of the Great October Socialist Revolution as it opened up the way of struggle for human liberation from oppression and social injustice.

He said the Soviet Union had a decisive role in saving mankind from fascism's disaster. Over 10 million Soviet people laid down their lives for this cause. The speaker added that over the years the Soviet people in national economic development [as received]. So on this accasion, the Lao people expressed their gratitude and wholehearted thanks to the soviet people.

Philippines

General Ver Returns to Country, Travels to Luzon

Police Intelligence Cited

HK1311025091 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] General Fabian Ver, former chief of staff of the Philippine Armed Forces, reportedly returned to the country four days ago and is said to have traveled to an undisclosed location in Luzon after staying overnight in Zamboanga City.

This was gathered from Renato Montenegro, National Police Commission regional director, who said that 10 people familiar with Ver have confirmed his arrival in the country. Montenegro said that he has many intelligence sources in Zamboanga City, and they confirmed having seen Ver.

Based on the report obtained by Montenegro, Ver spent the weekend in the house of a Philippine Army official, but he refused to name the official. Nonetheless, Philippine National Police intelligence agents in Region Nine are currently verifying the report.

According to the report, Ver and six companions left Zamboanga to go to an undetermined place in Luzon. The government continues to enforce the return ban on the Ver family on the grounds that they are still threats to national security.

Malacanang, Military Skeptical

HK1311105491 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] The military is skeptical about the police intelligence report indicating that former AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] Chief Fabian Ver was spotted in Zambaonga City four days ago. This was announced by AFP spokesman, Colonel Jaime delos Santos, in an interview with members of the Defense Press Core. Here is Jim de Lozano with the details:

[Begin De Lozano recording] According to Colonel de los Santos, no confirmation has been made on the report that General Ver was actually seen in Zamboanga City. He also doubted if the former chief of staff has actually been able to enter the country, as military intelligence has yet to receive any details of this report.

In his report, Zamboanga Napolcom [National Police Command] Regional Director Amerato [as heard] Montenegro said that 10 informers have told him that former General Fabian Ver arrived in Zamboanga City from Malayasia.

From Camp Aguinaldo, this has been Jim de Lozano for PBS [Philippine Broadcasting Service] News. [end recording]

Meanwhile, in related news, Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon said that no confirmation has been made by the intelligence community on the rumored homecoming of Ver. Drilon said, however, that the military would immediately arrest him if he has indeed entered the country. Here is Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon in an interview by Tanny Rodriguez.

[Begin Drilon recording in English] The Office of the President has no confirmation of this alleged return of General Ver. If in fact this is true, however, then we will look for him and serve the outstanding warrant for his arrest for a non-bailable offense, as he is among the accused in the Aquino-Galman case. [end recording]

Aquino Says Communist Party Chairman Can Return

HK1311022691 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in Tagalog 0100 GMT 13 Nov 91

[By Flora Melchor]

[Text] Communist Party Chairman Jose Maria Sison, who is presently hiding in Europe, may now return to the Philippines. President Aquino stressed that the government cannot block Sison from returning to the country, because this is his right. Nonetheless, the president said that Sison will face arrest on rebellion charges the moment he returns to the Philippines.

Sison is one of the communist rebels detained during former President Marcos' regime but was freed when the Aquino administration assumed power in 1986. Sison went to the Netherlands and was said to be soliciting funds for the Communist Party of the Philippines. Although his passport has been canceled, President Aquino has announced that Sison may still return to the country if he is still a Filipino citizen.

Meanwhile, Sison said that he will not go back to the Philippines unless he is informed of the government's conditions for his return. According to Sison, he is only ready to return to the Philippines if the situation is favorable to him. He also added that he has left the decision about his return to his lawyers in Manila.

According to the rebel leader, he may not be able to return to the Philippines, because he has no money to post bail as former first lady Imelda Marcos did. He assailed Mrs. Marcos' return to the country and her plan to reenter politics.

Aquino To Restore Bataan Plant Debt Payment

HK1311054391 Quezon City MALAYA in English 13 Nov 91 p 2

[By Cris Larano]

[Text] President Aquino is set to veto a provision in the 1992 budget which will automatically suspend payment on the Bataan nuclear power plant [BNP] loans. Budget Secretary Guillermo Carague disclosed yesterday.

In an interview after the weekly Malacanang forum at the Manila Pavillon, Carague said Mrs. Aquino will restore the P [Philippine peso] 6.6-billion allocation for the service of the BNP debts when the budget is presented for her signature.

He said the President's decision to veto the budget provision was recommended by Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao and Central Bank Gov. Jose Cuisia.

In the Palace-proposed budget of P308.4 billion for next year, P6.6 billion were earmarked for the service of the maturing principal and interests of the $2.2 billion BNPP loans. The government pays about $300,000 daily in loan interests alone.

The allocation for the payment of the nuclear power plant loans was the only item slashed by the House of Representatives in the budget measure it approved recently.

The House's decision was aimed at forcing the government to temporarily suspend payments on the loans, believed to be fraud-tainted.

The budget is yet to be approved by the Senate but majority of the senators pledged to retain the provision adopted by the House.

Abadia To Attend Hawaii Mutual Defense Meeting

To Discuss Defense Treaty

HK1211034991 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 12 Nov 91 p 12

[Text] Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief of staff Gen Lisandro C. Abadia is scheduled to leave today for a five-day visit to the United States Pacific Command headquarters in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Military officials said he will attend a top-level meeting of the RP [Republic of the Philippines]-U.S. Mutual Defense Board (MDB), the primary implementing body of the Mutual Defense Treaty between the two countries.

Gen Abadia, the officials disclosed, is expected to discuss withdrawal plans for Subic Naval Base and the turnover of Clark Air Base to the Philippine Government end of this month. Aside from these issues, he will also press for the early delivery of military hardware committed by the U.S. under the old Military Bases Agreement.

The officials said the military will still receive some patrol craft for the Philippine Navy, attack planes for the Philippine Air Force, amphibious tanks for the Philippine Marines and tactical field equipment for the Philippine Army.

Continued U.S. Assistance

With the loss of substantial American financial and logistical support for the AFP, the officials said Gen Abadia might also explore the possibility of continued U.S. assistance despite the Philippine Senate's rejection of a new basing agreement with the U.S.

They said continued support from the U.S. will help boost the modernization program of the AFP which would cost the Government P140 billion.

Gen Abadia's visit to Hawaii also comes on the heels of an ongoing joint RP-U.S. exercise "Balikatan [Shoulder to Shoulder '91] '91." The joint maneuver in Central Luzon will culminate in a "war game" exercise in Zambales early next month. The joint exericse will be participated in by about 2,000 U.S. combat troops and an equal number of soldiers from the AFP.

The trip to Hawaii is the fifth sortie of Gen Abadia abroad after a series of visits to Southeast Asian nations where he said he forged ties with his counterparts.

Aquino Statement on Trip, Rebels

HK1211134391 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0652 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Press statement by President Corazon C. Aquino read by Press Secretary Tomas Gomez III in Malacanang—live, in English; broadcast in progress; italicized passage in Tagalog]

[Text] [Gomez in progress] ...the chief of staff on this matter are sufficient.

General Abadia will be attending the regular meeting of the mutual defense board. He is not there to discuss bases withdrawal.

There have been informal consultations. From these, we have been able to identify the issues that need further discussions. This will take place within the structure of the formal talks. We have also been able to inform our advisers on what these issues are, and we have received their advice on how to proceed.

There are no new rewards being offered for the leadership of the leftist rebels. Jose Maria Sison cannot be prevented from returning if he so wishes.

We are still awaiting the recommendation of the Department of Labor and Employment. It is best and, indeed, proper that the chief justice be the source of the answers you seek.

[Anchorman Tanny Rodriquez] *Ladies and gentlemen, you are listening to some statements by President Aquino as read by Press Secretary Tomas Gomez III in response to some questions raised by reporters. Later on, we will shed some light on these statements that Press Secretary Tomas Gomez III has read.*

Further on Aquino Clarification

HK1311012491 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] The government has already presented its position on the topics that should be discussed in the upcoming U.S. bases withdrawal talks. Aquino said that there have already been informal consultations between the Philippines and the United States, which outlined the important topics that should be discussed by both countries.

In a related matter, President Aquino vehemently denied reports that the trip to Hawaii by General Lisandro Abadia, Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff, has any bearing on the bases withdrawal issue. Aquino clarified that Abadia went to Hawaii to attend the regular meeting of the Mutual Defense Board and not to discuss the bases withdrawal.

Muslim Group Urges Tripoli Accord Implementation

Threatens Mindanao Secession

HK1211124491 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] The Bangsa Moro Congress warned the Aquino government that they will set up a provincial government in Mindanao if the Tripoli Agreement is not implemented. Here is Rey Arquiza, DZRH Unit 21, with the details.

[Begin Arquiza recording] The chairman of Bangsa Moro Congress announced today that they may be forced to set up a provisional government under an independent state in Mindanao if the Aquino government does not implement the Tripoli Agreement. According to A.C. Tilan of the Bangsa Moro Congress, the Tripoli Agreement that was agreed in 1976 between the government of the Philippines and the Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF] has not beem implemented. The Tripoli Agreement gives Mindanao autonomy, an area where the non-implementation of the agreement has become a major issue in the peace situation. According to the Aquino government, however, it has already complied with the agreement under the autonomous region headed by Zacariao Canlao, governor of the autonomous region.

Meanwhile, during the talks with the representatives of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] and the Bangsa Moro Congress, it was learned that Libya will sponsor the MNLF as a regular member of the ICO. This was the first step any country has made to sponsor the MNLF to the ICO. The MNLF has been longing to be a regular member, but its application was set aside by the organization because no country would sponsor them. [end recording]

ICO Does Not Support Separatists

HK1311054191 Quezon City MALAYA in English 13 Nov 91 p 2

[By Ellen Tordesillas]

[Text] A visiting official of the Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC] yesterday said his group is not supporting Muslim movements calling for the disintegration of the Philippines.

Ibrahim Saleh Bakr, OIC assistant secretary generalm, said the OIC feels that "the time has come to find a just and peaceful solution, in the framework of the Tripoli Agreement without prejudice to the integrity and sovereignty of the Republic of the Philippines."

Bakr's statement is seen as a withdrawal of support to the secessionist objectives of the Moro National Liberation Front headed by Nur Misuari.

Misuari wants autonomy without plebiscite for 13 provinces in Mindanao while the government insists on a plebiscite.

In his meeting with Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon at Malacanang, Bakr complained that he has not been receiving reports on the efforts undertaken by the government for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao [ARMM].

Drilon said Bakr told him that the progress achieved by the government with the formation of the ARMM has not reached him at the OIC.

"In my conversation with Bakr, he expressed surprise that this information has never reached him before in the OIC. That's what he told me and that's why he asked me to formally inform him in writing of this government action that we have taken," Drilon said in a press briefing.

The Philippine government's representative to the OIC is Ambassador Abraham Rasul who is currently assigned in Saudi Arabia.

When asked on whether Rasul was sleeping on his job due to Bakr's revelation, Drilon said one should never jump to such conclusions.

"Please do not make that conclusion ... because Ambassador Rasul has been doing his job. It may be possible that on a personal basis, this is the first time that ... Bakr came to know about this," he said.

Drilon added that Bakr will be meeting with President Aquino today (Wednesday).

The officials who joined Drilon in his meeting with Bakr were ARMM Gov. Zacaria Candao, Rasul and members of the OIC delegation.

The talks centered on the measures undertaken by the government for the development of Mindanao, the devolution of powers from 17 government agencies to the ARMM and the budget allocated for the autonomous region.

Drilon said Bakr was satisfied with the outcome of their conversation.

When asked on Misuari has applied for an OIC membership, Drilon answered: "I don't think Mr. Misuari applied for membership with the OIC and I don't think that is forthcoming."

He added that Malacanang has to still await for the recommendation of the Department of Foreign Affairs and National Defense on the reports that Misuari has declared a unilateral ceasefire in Mindanao.

Press Secretary Tomes Gomez III added that the government has to verify the report first before undertaking any action.

Senator Assails Government Talks With Honasan

HK1111041291 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 11 Nov 91 pp 1, 10

[Text] A senior yesterday scored the government's reconciliation talks with military rebels and said they should instead be punished for joining past coup attempts.

Sen. Rene Saguisag, a former human rights lawyer, said he "views with guarded optimism" the government's peace negotiations with coup leader Gregorio Honasan and other ranking officers of the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabansa (RAM) [Revolutionary Nationalist Alliance].

"We are not going to improve or elevate public service standards if we do not have more discipline and strictness," Saguisag said, adding that the government's treatment of military rebels would set a precedent for the next administration.

"The saddest thing about it is we lost the moral high ground. Those of us here now ... we going to say to the next government. Don't be rash and tough with us; during our time, we were very benign toward (you)," said Saguisag, a former presidential spokesman.

The government, through Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Lisandro C. Abadia started peace talks with Honasan and other RAM members, with Abadia releasing nearly 100 officers and men detained for past coup attempts as a gesture of sincerity.

On Nov. 1, Abadia also announced the "surrender" of fugitive Lt. Col. Eduardo Kapunan and 13 other rebel officers, with Ms. Aquino ordering their reinstatement to the military roster shortly after.

Defense Secretary Renato S. De Villa has recommended a Dec. 1 deadline on Honasan's surrender and that of 14 other officers who have remained underground, after which the military would resume its manhunt on them.

"We will never learn any lesson if people from any spectrum get off lightly," Saguisag said, adding that even the Nazis are still being hunted nearly 50 years after their crimes.

Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon said Kapunan and 13 other RAM members were reinstated because they were reverted to civilian status after their participation in previous coup attempts. Under the law, civilians cannot be placed under military custody.

Kapunan's return to military service has reportedly caused division in the AFP because "disgruntled" officers loyal to the government have questioned the "propriety" of Abadia's terms for the surrender.

Former Assemblyman Homobono Adaza told a forum last week that there was a 60 percent possibility of another coup because of the surrender terms.

Honasan Security Chief Surrenders

HK1111111191 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 11 Nov 91

[By Rodney Allego of DZRH Unit No.1]

[Text] First Lieutenant Andy Gauran, a close-in [preceding word in English] security chief of Lieutenant Colonel Gregorio Gringo Honasan, formally returned to the control of the military today. Gauran has had a price on his head of 750,000 Philippine pesos since he was involved in the August 1987 and December 1989 coup attempts.

A member of the Philippine Military Academy Class of '82, Gauran is one of Honasan's most trusted men. According to some officials, this event might herald Honasan's surrender in the coming days.

However, according to General Lisandro Abadia, Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] chief of staff, he is still not sure whether Honasan would return to the fold of the law. Abadia warned the 11 rebel soldiers who are still at large that the government might set a deadline for the peace initiative. According to the AFP chief, Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon and Defense Secretary Renato de Villa were misquoted when they announced that a 1 December deadline has been set for the peace talks. Abadia said that government has not set any deadline yet and that only President Aquino has the right to set take such a step.

Abadia identified those rebels who are still at large as Honasan, Commodore Domingo Calajate, former Brigadier General Jose Maria Zumel, former Navy Captain Felix Turingan, former Lieutenant Gregor Mendel Panelo, Captain Reynaldo Ordonez, Navy Captain Celestino Ferrera, Colonel Reynaldo Samaco, Major Allen Quirobin, Captain Dante Pimentel, and Major Isidro Mutya.

Government Offers Reward for Communist Leaders

HK1211080291 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] The government offered 18 million pesos reward money to anybody who will give information leading to the capture of Jose Maria Sison, former chairman of the Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP], and 15 other communist rebel leaders. Philippine National Police [PNP] Director General Cesar Nazareno is ready to release a new poster today which contains their names and the corresponding reward for the leaders of the CPP-New People's Army [NPA]-National Democratic Front [NDF]. The poster will be distributed to civilians and PNP officials in a meeting to be held today in Camp Crame. It was also mentioned that a million peso reward has been set for anyone who gives information leading to the capture of Joma Sison, Benito Tiamson, Wilma Austria Tiamson, Leo Velasco, Arturo Tabara, Ricardo Reyes, Prudencio Calupid, Lucio Borlaza, Felimon

Lagman, and Fidel Agcawili, who are all high-ranking officials of the CPP-NPA-NDF both inside and outside the country.

Further on New Criminal Charges Against Marcoses

HK1311021991 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Fifty-nine new criminal cases have been filed by Solicitor General Frank Chavez against former first lady Imelda Marcos and her three children, in relation to their violation of the Central Bank circular prohibiting government officials from maintaining foreign exchange accounts in other countries without prior permission from the Central Bank of the Philippines.

Mrs. Marcos was charged with violating Central Bank Circular Number 960 on 17 counts, Imee Manotoc on 15 counts, Bong Bong on 12 counts, and Irene Araneta on 15 counts.

Based on the complaint filed by Chavez before the Department of Justice, he emphasized that the accused opened and maintained foreign exchange deposits in Switzerland and other countries without Central Bank permission. These new cases Chavez has filed against the Marcos family is part of the government's effort to retrieve an alleged $350 million in ill-gotten wealth deposited in banks outside the country.

While there is a total of 54 [as heard] criminal cases already filed by Chavez against Mrs. Marcos, the solicitor general said that there are still two sets of criminal cases which he will file before the end of November. In an 86-page complaint, Chavez said that the accounts were placed in the names of various foundations and beneficiaries, the Marcos couple, and their children.

Defectors to LDP To Support Salonga Ouster

HK1211072691 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] Senator Salonga will soon be expelled from his present position in the Senate due to the defection of seven senators to the Struggle of the Filipino Democrat [LDP]. Congressman Leonardo Guerrero, Speaker Ramon Mitra Jr.'s spokesman, stressed that the defection to the LDP of Senators Agapito Butz Aquino, Ernesto Herrera, Edgardo Angara, John Osmena, Mamintal Tamano, Orlando Mercado, and Santanina Rasul increased the number of LDP senators in the Upper House of Congress to 12.

Salonga will be expelled as Senate president as planned by getting the majority in the Senate, which will be supported by the Oust Salonga Movement. Senator Neptali Gonzales, the current president of the ruling coalition, is expected to replace Salonga.

Salonga has said that the plan to expel him is a step that will only make him a political martyr.

Impending Resignation of Chief Justice Announced

HK1211080491 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] The impending resignation of Chief Justice Marcelo Fernan in the coming week has been revealed. This move paves the way for his candidacy in the 1992 elections. The revelation was made by a very close aide of Fernan who also confirmed Fernan's plan to run for president in the coming election.

According to the source, the chief justice will resign at the same time that the Union for Progress coalition launches itself on 22 November. The team of Fernan and Senator Orlando Mercado, who will run as vice president, will be formed under the coalition.

Senators John Osmena, Edgardo Angara, and Ernesto Herrera are expected to attend the occasion, as they are the legislators promoting Fernan's candidacy. It was learned from the source that, after the Union for Progress conducts its inauguration ceremonies, it will be registered with the Commission on Elections as a political party.

LDP Leaders Reject Fernan as Potential Leader

HK1311113791 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Leaders of the Struggle of Filipino Democrats [LDP] have said outright that they will not accept a political reject as a possible contender for party standard bearer. Senator Neptali Gonzales, president of the LDP, was refering to Chief Justice Marcelo Fernan when he said that House Speaker Ramon Mitra Jr. and former Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos have invested too much patience and too much effort in their bids to become the LDP's presidential candidate in the coming 1992 elections and that it would be simply improper for them to be pitted against a candidate who was defeated in another party.

Chief Justice Fernan is being urged by several Cebuano politicians to join the LDP to increase his chances of becoming party standard bearer. Chief Justice Fernan lost to Senate President Jovito Salonga in a straw vote conducted by the Liberal Party.

Some members of the LDP said that their innuendo of not accepting any political reject is a diplomatic way of dissuading Fernan from seeking the LDP presidential nomination.

Senator: Malacanang Blocking Plot Investigation

HK1111044191 Quezon City MALAYA in English 11 Nov 91 p 6

[By Cris Larano]

[Text] Sen. Ernesto Maceda (LP) [Liberal Party] yesterday disclosed efforts by Malacanang to frustrate a Senate inquiry into the alleged assassination plot hatched by Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus against military rebels and political rivals.

Maceda, who heads defense committee designated to conduct the probe on the slay plot, disclosed that Malacanang has ordered the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation to ban American mercenary Jack Terrell from entering the country.

Terrell, in an interview with U.S. news network ABC, claimed he was hired by Manglapus to assassinate key military rebels and several political figures.

Maceda made the disclosure at yesterday's hearing where Manglapus, who earlier promised the Senate he would cooperate with the probe, failed to show up.

In a three-page letter to the committee, Manglapus, through his counsel Antonio Bucoy, said "unless more substantive, credible and admissible evidence" can be provided to the committee "there is no reason for Secretary Manglapus to appear in the referenced inquiry."

Manglapus' counsel also claimed that an appearance before the Senate panel will "denigrate his position as a member of the Cabinet, with his highly sensitive portfolio of Secretary of Foreign Affairs."

"This is not to mention that such an attendance would cause serious embarrassment to the Philippine government in the eyes of the diplomatic community," Bucoy added.

Maceda said he was "surprised" Manglapus found it "denigrating" to appear before the committee he used to chair as member of the Senate "when he (Manglapus) submits himself to press conference where media men ask him the same questions."

He added that Manglapus' absence only reinforces his belief that there is some basis to the Terrell expose.

Maceda said the testimonies of taxi driver Efren Sistoso, radio broadcaster Waldy Carbonelol, former National Telecommunications Commissioner Jose Luis Alcuaz and ABC Manila bureau chief Bill Thomas; the certification of ABC on the autenticity of the tape recording and the order to ban Terrell are enough prima facie evidence to conclude that this is not just "a tall tale."

"My gut feel as a lawyer tells me this is a matter with some basis and must be investigated. There's more to this than something that can be swept under the rug. It will not go away by Mr. Manglapus' refusal to testify," he said.

But Maceda also said the committee may reconsider its decision not to interview Terrell abroad.

"If Terrell will be prevented from coming here, then the committee will have no recourse but to go abroad and interview him outside the country," he said.

Meantime, Maria Feria, Manglapus' chief of staff, denied she acted as conduit in the alleged illicit transaction between Manglapus and Terrell.

Terrell claimed it was Feria who paid him, in behalf of Manglapus, the $30,000 downpayment for his services.

Feria said she never knew Terrell until after the story came out in the papers.

Asian Development Bank Decreases Loan Approvals

HK1311044891 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 13 Nov 91 p 8

[By Andres B. Saracho]

[Text] The country's poor track record in implementing foreign-assisted projects largely due to the lack of [Philippine] peso counterpart funds has cut down loan approvals from the Asian Development Bank [ADB] by $299 million to $384 million as of end-September from $683 million in the same period in 1990.

Documents released to media prior to a semiannual ADB country projects review scheduled today also showed that total loan disbursements shrank by $129.1 million from last year's 345.7 million to $216.6 million.

But Rogelio Singson, executive director of the Coordinating Council of the Philippine Assistance Program [PAP], blamed the string of natural calamities that hit the nation for significant 43.78 percent decline in the ADB loan approvals.

"The occurence of various events particularly natural calamities has resulted in changes in the project priority and absorption capacity," Singson said in a press briefing.

Data showed that the share of project loans to total approvals during the period dropped to 61 percent, at $234 million, compared to 85.4 percent last year. On the other hand, quick-distbursing loans accounted for 39 percent, at $150 million, from a 14.6 percent share in 1990.

The project loans went down by $349 million from $583 million last year, offsetting the minuscule $50-million rise in quick-disbursing loans.

Loan disbursements were likewise not encouraging, falling by $129 million or 37.3 percent to $216 million from $345.7 million in 1990.

Of this, project loans contracted by 24.6 percent from $231.7 million to $174.6 million whiile quick-disbursing loans fell bya significant 63.2 percent from last year's 114 million to only $42 million.

Also as of End-September, disbursements from the $555.4 million ADB pledged in the 1989 PAP meeting stood at only $188.1 million. Against a scheduled disbursement of $218.8 million for the period, the amount represented 86 percent, translating to a slippage of 14 percent.

With the loan disbursements declining at a much faster pace than service payments, at 15.1 percent to $175 million, the net transfer of ADB resources to the Philippines narrowed by a hefty 71.4 percent to $39.9 million from the previous year's $139.6 million.

Despite his, however, Singson stressed the positive net resource transfer was still manageable compared with the negative 45.2 percent and 8.4 percent in 1988 and 1989, respectively.

Of the ADB-financed projects, Singson cited three which have unsatisfactory performances. These were the $18.8-million Highland Agricultural Development, which was delayed due to the poor performance of contractors, road component and the July 16 killer earthquake; the $24.1-million Sorsogon Integrated Area development, hampered by a counterpart funding problem and weak management unit; and the $46-million Water Supply Sector project, delayed also because of insufficient funds.

He noted that the water supply project for the Local Water Utilities Administration had undergone two extensions after the project loan was approved in 1983, but raised hopes thta the project would be completed before the end of the year. The project was for the contruction of water supply and distribution facilities for Metro Cebu, Cagayan de Oro City, San Pablo City, and 44 smaller water districts.

Another ongoing project for the water supply sector was the Angat Water Supply Optimization Project, being funded by the ADB at $150 million and co-financed by the World Bank ($140 million) and the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund [OECF] of Japan ($80 million). The ADB portion includes the construction of a power house, a La Mesa water treatment plant, an aqueduct and a water reservoir.

Meanwhile, the same documents also showed that disbursements from other multilateral creditors indicated slippages as of end- September. Total actual releases during the period, out of the $2.866-billion pledges in the Tokyo PAP meeting amounted to $1.077 billion against a schedule of $1.427 billion.

Disbursements from the World Bank showed the lowest ratio, at 66.1 percent to $434.3 million against the scheduled $657.2 million. Japan's OECF came second with 80.4 percent, at $298.7 million against $371.5 million, while the US Agency for International Development disbursed 89.5 percent of the $25.6-million scheduled loans at $22.9 million.

Other donors have so far disbursed $133.9 million representing 86.7 percent of the schedule of $154.5 million.

IMF Technical Team To Review Economy

HK1111093791 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 11 Nov 91 pp 1, 6

[By Ma. Gertrudes M. Chavez]

[Text] Prospects for a favorable review of the economy by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) are at best "fifty-fifty" even as monetary officials believe that the Philippines has already racked up several positive gains in its favor in the past months.

The IMF technical mission is set to arrive today to undertake what is perhaps the most crucial review of the Philippine economy. It is crucial because substantial loan inflows by as much as $2.5 billion including the much-needed $2.3-billion debt reduction package from foreign commercial banks are tied to the IMF review.

Central Bank [CB] Governor Jose L. Cuisia, Jr. last Friday said there are both rosy and adverse factors which could sway the review either way. He concedes that it is "very difficult to assess" the country's chances, adding that there is no clear visible pattern as to the results of the IMF evaluation.

Critical Issues

He said the Fund will be looking at four critical issues—money supply and international reserves: P [Philippine pesos] 7-billion cutback in expenditures which started in the second quarter this year; P1 tariff on oil; and the 1992 fiscal program.

The CB official noted that insofar as the monetary program is concerned, Government has remained firmly on track. Liquidity, inflation's best friend, has been tightly reined.

Reserve money [RM] (broadly, the amount of cash in circulation; specifically, currency held and demand deposits of commercial banks less the cash in treasury and bank vaults) for the month of October was P1.2 billion below the target set for the period.

The RM level, Mr. Cuisia pointed out, "is very close to that in September." This is "not quite the usual" since normally, the CB sets higher targets for ends-October, November, and December, in anticipation of higher spending in the fourth quarter due to the holiday season, he explained.

In the case of base money [BM] (RM plus eligible government securities and reserve deficiencies of deposit money banks), one of six performance criteria being monitored by the IMF, the CB chief is optimistic that it is within target. However, the actual BM figure is not yet available because there is a two-week period that is still being looked at—the last week of a given month plus the first week of the following month.

BM is considered critical by the IMF because Government has already failed to meet its target twice, in end-June and end- September.

The IMF, last August, had agreed to waive the June BM criterion because the Philippines had exceeded its target by P4 billion. It will likewise do just that with respect to the end-September BM target because the CB had again missed its target by P1.9 billion. Deficiencies [subhead]

Mr. Cuisia attributed Government's failure to meet BM ceilings to deficiencies of the commercial banking system, or their inability to deposit as much reserves as required. "If we are to base it on September figures, there is every indication that we could further trim down base money in end-October," he maintained.

However, if there is an excess on the BM target for October, Government can justify this to the IMF, explaining that the country has a high currency to deposit ratio, Mr. Cuisia indicated.

In other words, there is more currency being held in relation to deposits.

With a high currency ratio, the CB governor feels that the IMF should allow higher monetary ceilings. Another Factor [subhead]

Another positive factor of the monetary program is the country's huge net international reseves (NIR).

The NIR is the difference between the net foreign assets of both the CB and the commercial banking system and their short-term foreign liabilities.

NIR as of October 23 has soared to $1.224 billion, or $1.4 billion above the adjusted floor.

These reserves virtually assure the CB that it can pay off its short-term obligations.

Despite favorable results of the monetary program, what continues to be Government's burden in trying to pass the November IMF review is the 1992 fiscal program.

Revenue Measures

The country needs to fill in a fiscal gap of P36 billion next year, the sources of which are expected to come from three revenue enhancement measures, identified as: —simplified net income tax system (SNITS), which plugs the traditional loopholes through which tax revenues from high income professionals and business establishments are siphoned away;

—value-added tax refinements which are aimed at widening the coverage of the VAT system; and

—the alien stay legalization measure, authorizing the Bureau of Immigration to collect reasonable fees for aliens whose stay can now be legalized.

To date, there is still no indication that the Senate will approve the enactment of these proposed measures despite the endorsement of the House of Representatives and the Executive branch.

Mr. Cuisia said President Aquino is set to meet with the Senate to convince the chamber of the necessity of passing these laws.

Even as there is a cloud looming on the country's revenue program next year, monetary officials are now busy looking for alterantive sources of revenue generation should the Senate fail to act on the three bills.

Mr. Cuisia identified several possibilities such as privatization of big-ticket government items and the sale of various state assets. But these, he stressed, are not enough and will not sufficiently bridge the 1992 budget deficit.

Thailand

Hun Sen Arrives Enroute To Visit PRC

BK1111044691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0351 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] Bangkok, Nov 11 (AFP)—Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen arrived here Monday on his way to Beijing, from where he will accompany Prince Norodom Sihanouk back to Cambodia later this week, a Thai air force official said.

Hun Sen will leave Thailand for China on Tuesday morning, the official said.

Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Cambodia's former monarch, is scheduled to return to Phnom Penh on Thursday after an absence of more than a decade, three weeks after Cambodia's four warring factions signed a peace treaty in France.

Foreign Minister Leaves for APEC Meeting

BK1211153091 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin left this morning for Korea to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation [APEC] meeting. He said to newsmen before his departure that he will push for a discussion on free trade in the region. He said the APEC ministers will exchange views in order to see the direction and grasp a broad economic picture of the region. He said that Thailand will support a discussion about the Uruguay round of trade talks, and also about the principles, method, and scope to establish a free trade system in the region. He said there would be serious conflicts in the future if the region could not successfully implement a free trade system.

Military Warns Against Illegal Burma Crossings

BK1111020591 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 11 Nov 91 p 3

[Text] Tak—Military authorities have warned residents of five districts bordering the Burmese border here not to cross into Burma where they could be arrested for illegal entry.

The Third Army Region's Task Force 34 issued the warning after the arrest of four Thais by Burmese troops near the Burmese border town of Myawaddy opposite Tak's Mae Sot District late last month.

The four Thai villagers, who reportedly worked on a tobacco plantation near Myawaddy, were charged with illegal entry and fined 4,000 kyats each.

Task Force 34 deputy commander Col Suraphong Yunyao said residents of Mae Ramat, Tha Song Yang, Umphang, Poppra and Mae Sot districts have been advised against crossing the border into Burma because such actions are in violation of both Thai and Burmese laws.

Sources said Thais and Burmese living along the Moei River have travelled back and forth across the border for years, mostly to tend their farms along the borderline.

But Burmese authorities have imposed restrictions on border crossing after their seizure of border areas earlier occupied by Karen rebels and deployment of more troops in the areas.

Many who crossed over from either side of the border have been found to be involved in illegal business such as logging, smuggling and robbery, the sources said.

Meanwhile, some 300-400 Burmese who possessed border passes issued by Thai authorities entered Thailand daily, the sources said, adding that more than half stayed on to look for jobs in Mae Sot.

Some even travelled to Bangkok or other provinces in the interior of the country to search for work, they said.

The number of Burmese aliens in Thailand usually increases in the dry season when they can wade across the Moei River into Thailand.

In another development, a meeting of the Regional Thai-Burmese Border Committee will open today in the Burmese township of Taunggyi.

The meeting will discuss the problem of Burmese refugees and aliens in Thailand.

Third Army Region commander Lt-Gen Phairot Chantha-urai is leading an 11-person delegation to the five-day meeting.

SRV Requesting Extradition of Corrupt Banker

BK1111063591 Bangkok NAEO NA in Thai 11 Nov 91 pp 7, 10

[Text] According to a Foreign Ministry source, the Vietnamese Government in September sent a letter to the Thai Foreign Ministry requesting assistance in checking whether Pham Cong Duoc, a senior Vietnamese Government official, was hiding in Thailand.

Pham Cong Duoc was the director of the Vietnamese Credit Bank who colluded with senior Vietnamese officials and certain Political Bureau members to defraud the Vietnamese Government out of several million dong. He falsified the accounts of those officials and made withdrawals and collected monthly interests from their accounts. These fraudulent practices were discovered but Pham fled the country before an arrest could be made.

The Vietnamese Government wanted to arrest Pham so that information from him will facilitate the effectively prosecution of other senior officials in the racket.

According to the source, in its letter, the Vietnamese Government raised the possibility that Pham could be in the Thai Government's custody, noting that Pham fled on a fishing boat heading toward Thailand in August when Thailand was intensifying the campaign against Vietnamese pirates. The boat Pham was on could be one of the 13 boats seized by Thailand.

The source said the Thai Foreign Ministry complied with the request even though Thailand and Vietnam have no extradition agreement. An official Thai report recently confirmed that Pham had fled to Thailand and that he has since been hiding in the office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. The Thai Government cannot pursue the matter any further due to the prohibitions of international law.

The source suggested that the Vietnamese Government discreetly write to the Thai Government asking that Pham be extradited on the grounds of his importance and on the fact that he has not sought political asylum and had been merely fleeing from being prosecuted for his economic crime. The Vietnamese Government could also contact the United Nations directly for Pham's arrest.

Firm Obtains License To Exploit SRV Ruby Mine

BK1111022191 Bangkok THE NATION in English 11 Nov 91 p B1

[Text] Viet-Thai Gems co, a joint venture between BH Mining Co, a group of investors in Yen Bai Province and Vietnam Gemstone Co, has obtained the licence on Oct 22 to exploit a ruby mine located in Luc Yen district of Yen Bai province, some 155 kilometres north of Hanoi.

The joint ventrue, with an authorized capital of US$2 million, of which 60 percent is from the Thai side, and the rest are from the Vietnamese counterparts, has won the right to operate the mine there for 12 years beginning from the date of the issuance of the licence.

BH Mining Co is the first private Thai company to obtain the licence for mining rubies in Vietnam.

Agreement for Low-Orbit Satellite Project Signed

BK1111022791 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 11 Nov 91 p 17

[Text] The United Communication Thailand Co (UCOM), the major shareholder in Total Access Communications Co (TAC), has signed a memorandum of understanding [MOU] with Iridium Inc of the United States to book a 5 percent share, worth about 1,000 million baht, in the 100-billion-baht Iridium low-orbit satellite project to be launched in 1995, UCOM Chairman Bunchai Bencharongkun said at the weekend.

The MOU, signed on Friday in Bangkok, would make Thailand the telecommunications leader in this region. The Iridium project would launch 77 low-earth-orbit space vehicles.

The project would have polar orbit at 413 nautical miles and full earth coverage at the equator. It mainly would serve mobile telephones worldwide.

Mr Bunchai said UCOM would form the Iridium Thailand Co to take over the Thai project and to seek telecommunications operators in Thailand to take part.

Shinawatra Computer and Communication Co and Total Access Communication have been granted a 15-year concession from the Telephone Organisation of Thailand (TOT) and the Communications Authority of Thailand (CAT) to operate the 900 MHz and 800 MHz mobile telephones.

Prime Minister Anan Pledges 'Clean' Elections

BK1311020691 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0000 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] The general election is expected around April next year. At present, that will depend on the promulgation of the new constitution. In any event, the Government has already begun preparing for the general election.

After a cabinet meeting yesterday at Government House, Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun talked to reporters about the task of overseeing the elections. He said that it is the Government's responsibility to set and carry out measures to make the election proceed smoothly and successfully in a clean manner.

NPKC Encouraged Not To Change Constitution

BK1011011991 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 10 Nov 91 p 3

[Text] The National Peace-keeping Council [NPKC] is encouraged not to allow a change in the draft constitution permitting government officials to hold political posts, sources said yesterday.

The council's political supporters, who want to see Army Chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun become the next prime minister, are warning the junta that such an undemocratic move would have strong political repercussions which might turn explosive.

"It is widely believed that such an amendment would cause public dissent. It is therefore improbable that such an amendment will be introduced," said a political source close to the NPKC.

The sources said the NPKC had earlier tried to add the clause into the constitution. Strong public objection on the issue forced them to reconsider its stand.

A source claimed that a senior NPKC member said during their recent personal communication that an amendment that would be no good for the political situation in the country was not needed.

"This issue has stirred the public and I think the NPKC now realises its sensitivity," said the source.

He added that he expected the constitution committee to make its final decision on the issue next week.

Meanwhile, three political parties—Solidarity, Phalang Tham and New Aspiration—agreed to jointly organise a political rally at Sanam Luang by the end of the month if the National Legislative Assembly [NLA] passed the undemocratic constitution, sources said yesterday.

"We expected that thousands of people would join the rally and this would give the National Peace-keeping Council a second thought whether or not they would go ahead with perpetuating their power after the general elections," said the sources.

The sources said the three parties considered it unacceptable if the new constitution allowed government officials to hold political portfolios at the same time.

"This would drive our country back to the year 1978 when the constitution permitted government officials to sit in the cabinet. Any amendment in the constitution should not push the country backward.

"We believe that the people would support our move on the issue," said a senior political source in the New Aspiration Party.

The sources said no date had been fixed for the rally but it would be organised after the NLA passed its second reading of the amended constitution expected to be before November 20.

The sources said top party members from the three parties including their leaders—Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, Mr Bunchu Rotchanasathian and Maj-Gen Chamlong Srimuang—would join the demonstration.

The Democrats have refused to join the move and disappointed the three parties.

"We see no reason why the Democrats have not responded to our call. This might have some political implication," said a source.

The sources said among the points to be adopted in the draft constitution are:

The President of the Senate is to be named Parliament President whose duties include handling of the process of nomination for prime minister.

—The Prime Minister does not have to be an elected MP.

—The adoption of the party slate electoral system with an enlarged constituency of four to seven MPs.

—The Prime Minister would be empowered to appointed senators but the first batch of senators would be appointed by the NPKC.

—The Prime Minister would have to seek the approval of Parliament before taking office.

—Senators could endorse a no-confidence motion against the government but could not participate in the no-confidence vote.

Constitution Committee Adopts Party-Slate System

BK1211010191 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 12 Nov 91 p 1,3

[Text] The Constitution Scrutiny Committee has adopted a party-slate electoral system with enlarged constituencies, which critics claim would allow rich and influential figures to latch on to the ticket of strong candidates and favour the military-backed Samakkhi Tham Party.

Committee spokesman Wira Pitarachat announced after last night's meeting that the panel believes its decision would strengthen the party system in Thailand.

Samakkhi Tham, which publicly announced it would support Army Chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun as the next prime minister, has long championed the party-slate system and has reportedly been telling former MPs from other parties that this would definitely be the system adopted in the new Constitution.

The system would enlarge each constituency to a maximum of seven MPs with voters forced to choose a whole team of candidates sponsored by a political party. Unlike under the last charter, they cannot vote for different candidates from across party lines and must pick a team from one party.

However, Mr. Wira said the scrutiny committee yielded to public criticism about making the charter too difficult to amend. It has lowered from two-thirds to one-half the minimum combined vote of both Houses of Parliament for a successful amendment.

Politicians and academics argued that this would favour large political parties and put smaller parties at a disadvantage. In particular, it would favour Samakkhi Tham, with Chat Thai under its wing, to sweep more seats than any other party during the next general election.

They also argued it would be the means by which influential and rich candidates could tag on to the ticket of popular or strong candidates and get into Parliament without having to get elected on their own strengths.

Mr. Wira maintained that the party-slate system would develop the party system because there are already 19 registered parties with 10 more awaiting approval from the Interior Ministry. He insisted that the system would not put the smaller parties at a disadvantage.

"There will be 34 provinces with one to three seats. That's half of all the provinces in Thailand. The smaller parties can run there," Mr. Wira argued.

Other major points that the scrutiny committee decided yesterday include:

—Dropping the provision of article 119 (4) Jor which required that candidates must have been domiciled for two consecutive years in the constituency in which they are running. The panel said the definition of "domiciled" was too broad in the civil code. It cut out the whole clause from the draft.

—Article 121 (8) barring those found to be unusually rich by the court or any lawful consideration, was also removed from the draft. The panel said a law has already been passed to allow politicians found to be unusually rich to appeal to the courts. It decided that their rights to contest elections should not be cut out by the court or any lawful consideration. The people must make the decision and so the committee cut the whole clause out of the charter.

—The voting age is to be kept at 18. The panel debated whether or not this should be 18 or 20 but finally decided to stick with the original draft.

The number of Cabinet ministers, which was set at 44, was increased to 48, plus a prime minister, so that the whole Cabinet will total 49. Mr. Wira said this is because the Government is sponsoring a bill, already with the Juridical Council, to create a Labour Ministry and there is also a plan to create a Communications Ministry separate from the current Transport and Communications Ministry.

Senators are to be appointed by His Majesty the King. Mr. Wira said that the committee has written only this point into the charter with no further details. Observers said these may be put in a provisional clause that the Prime Minister is to countersign the Royal appointment of senators.

Mr. Wira said some parties may like the party-slate electoral system while others dislike it. But in any case all parties should develop themselves by choosing good candidates for their teams. If this is the case then smaller parties will have to unite to fight the larger parties.

In the case of a candidate dying before the general election it would be considered that the team is complete, with no new candidate having to be put into the team. But 90 days after the general election a by-election must be held to fill the seat.

He also argued that the party-slate system would decrease vote-buying because candidates could "share expenses" rather than each having to fight for his own survival.

He said the scrutiny committee would hold its final meeting tomorrow to finalise the provisional clause.

The issue of whether the House Speaker or Senate Speaker should be parliamentary president, and whether or not active civil servants would be allowed to take up Cabinet posts, were not discussed yesterday, Mr. Wira said.

Parties' Reaction Noted

BK1211012391 Bangkok THE NATION in English 12 Nov 91 p A1-2

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The pro-military Samakkhi Tham Party, which has vowed to back Supreme Commander Suchinda Khraprayun as the next prime minister, has staunchly pushed for the party-slate electoral system. The party, formed after the coup, has recruited several veterans from other parties still reeling from the impact of the military takeover.

Ironically, Samakkhi Tham and the Chat Thai Party, the core of the previous government, are said to be forming an alliance that would try to ensure the military's continued political power after the next election.

ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Sombun Rahong, who has close connection with the top military hierarchy, was elected as the new Chat Thai leader recently in what was seen as a major step towards putting the party under the armed forces' guidance.

Seven Chat Thai members, including former premier Chatchai Chunhawan, are among the 13 politicians under a military-ordered investigation for alleged corruption. After Sombun's appointment, the military agreed to revoke the investigating committee's right to summarily order confiscation fo the politicians' assets, instead allowing the Supreme Court the settle their cases.

The NPKC [National Peacekeeping Council] cited "unprecedented corruption" as a major reason for outsting the Chatchai government. The life-long electoral ban in the original consitution draft was seen as direct punishment of the Chatchai administration politicians.

The apparent thaw between the NPKC and the Chat Thai Party prompted speculation that the constitutional draft would finally be amended to lift the ban.

Political analysts said yesterday the party-slate system, the lifting of the electoral ban and allowing active permanent officials to become premier indicated that the Samakkhi Tham and Chat Thai Parties would become a powerful post-election alliance that would push Suchinda as the next prime minister.

"It is obvious now that the next prime minister will be somebody in the NPKC" said Likhit Thirawekhin, who was a member of the committee that drew up the constition draft.

The constitution-drafting committee had been strongly criticized for its apparent attempts to please the NPKC. But Likhit said the draft-reviewing panel's performance was worse.

The review committee was set up after the charter draft won unanimous approval in the National Legislative Assembly in its first reading in July.

"I'm now feeling disappointed," Likhit said. "The NPKC should have done what they vowed to do after the coup. This is another step backward for our democracy."

Likhit said he could not believe that the NPKC had not dictated terms to the review committee.

"Everything has been fixed from the beginning. We wasted our time drafting the constitution. They knew what they want and the (review committee's) claim that the draft should be more democractic was just a pretext."

Khothom Arikya, an academic who jointed a politicians-led pro- democracy movement, criticized the NPKC for ignoring public opinion about the new constitution.

Khothom mentioned Suchinda's statement that Thailand was a sovereign country and did not have to listen to the United States' call for a quick return to democracy here.

"He is not listening to the United States, and he is not listening to the Thai people as well," Khothom said.

The Democrat, Phalang Tham, New Aspiration and Solidarity Parties also joined the chorus of criticism.

"This is vicious," said Democraft spokesman Churin Laksanawisit. "Finally we have seen the 'ugly tail'."

He said the Democrat Party would launch a nationwide campaign against the constitution draft.

Deputy Phalang Tham leder Suthep Atthakon said though the party-slate system would benefit his party, Phalang Tham preferred the old system in which constituents were allowed to vote for individual candidates.

New Aspiration member Chaturon Chaisaeng described the lifting of the electoral ban as a "big joke".

"How can you explain that to the public?" he asked.

Solidarity leader Bunchu Rotchanasathian said the NPKC had contradicted all its promises made after the February coup.

"What we have been suspecting all along has been confirmed: The NPKC wants to remain in power," Bunchu said. "The NPKC had accepted what it descried as dirty. The claim that the coup was aimed at restoring true democracy and cleaning Thai politics is an absolute lie."

Bunchu, like Chaturon and Churin, warned that the public may no longer tolerate the domination of the NPKC.

"Public opposition can be widespread and aggressive," the Solidarity leader said.

ACM Sombun Agrees To Head Chat Thai Party

BK1211064791 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Air Chief Marshal [ACM] Sombun Rahong, governor of the Airport Authority of Thailand, has agreed to become leader of the Chat Thai Party.

During a press briefing at the Rama Gardens Hotel this morning, ACM Sombun stated that once everyone in the Chat Thai Party has agreed on the matter, he was therefore ready to accept the post of leader of the party.

Sombun said from now until the end of December he would speedily sort out all his work in the Airport Authority of Thailand before taking the post of leader of the Chat Thai Party.

Amaret Explains Patent Bill Benefits, Criticisms

BK1311030791 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 13 Nov 91 p 26

[Text] The Patent Bill will not adversely affect Thailand's medical drugs industry and will have no immediate impact on prices for locally-made drugs, according to Commerce Minister Amaret Sila-on.

The bill, heavily criticised by student groups, among others, as a sellout to pressure from United States drug-makers, is being considered by the National Legislative Assembly.

Mr Amaret, in a statement to the assembly president to explain the need for the bill, said Thai drug factories are unable to produce the essential active ingredients.

"Therefore, about 95 percent of total active ingredients used in the local drug industry are imported. Whether or not there is [a] Patent Act makes no difference to them as they have already imported the active ingredients from foreign patent-holders," he said.

Of Thailand's 190 or so drug manufacturers, most are small with the capacity to produce only common drugs. Only four have the capacity to make those which would be protected by the bill, he said.

He discounted fears that the bill, if passed, would see big price rises for medicines with the Government having to spend more on public health.

"Such speculation is generated by a group of people whose interests would be affected if the bill is passed."

In fact, the bill would protect only drugs developed after it becomes law and, according to statistics, only about 50 new drugs are developed each year, Mr Amaret said.

"Moreover, protection will be provided only after the drug is registered by the Public Health Ministry. This process takes five to seven years."

The developer has to register the new active ingredient with the Commerce Ministry, which then takes about two years to check whether or not the active ingredient is really new.

The developer then has to formulate the active ingredient as a drug, with a further one to three years spent on experiments until it is sure the drug is safe for use.

"It takes another two years for the Public Health Ministry to check whether or not the drug is really safe before registering it," Mr Amaret said, adding the developer is allowed to produce and sell the new drug only after the ministry registers it.

He claimed there is no precedent in other countries of patent protection resulting in jacked up prices for drugs.

"In some countries, such as Canada, prices of drugs after the patent law was passed increased at a slower rate than before.

"Prices of some drugs sold in Thailand are now higher than those sold in the countries providing patent protection," he said.

Ceclor, for example, is sold at 1,700.18 baht per 100 pills in Hong Kong, 1,536.67 baht in Malaysia and 1,638.81 baht in the Philippines, but it is 2,200 baht in Thailand.

Dobutrex, a drug to counter heart failure, is sold at 499.84 baht per 250 milligrammes in Hong Kong, but for 585 baht in Thailand.

Because local drug prices would not rise, particularly in the short term, the Government would not have to spend more on public health, he said.

However, to ensure that the public is not adversely affected, a number of measures have been designed to control drug prices. Patent-holders would be required occasionally to submit their production costs to the Government.

A Drug Patents Committee would be set up chaired by the Public Health Ministry's permanent secretary. It would be empowered to control drug prices and take legal action against patent-holders which violate the Price-Fixing and Anti-Monopoly Act, he said.

Where a patent-holder fails to produce a drug, overproduces, or sells at too high a price, the committee has the power to compel it to license other manufacturers to produce the drug. The patent-holder may have its patent revoked by the committee.

In an emergency or to prevent a shortage, the Government has the authority to produce or import any drug, Mr Amaret said.

He said that the bill, when passed, would enable Thailand to cope with global changes and boost the country's attractiveness to foreign investment and for technology transfers. If the law did not provide enough protection for investors they might choose other countries, especially in the case of big industries involving computers, electronic equipment and ball bearings.

Thailand and other countries participate in the Uruguay Round of talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and there is [a] trend for agreement to protect intellectual property, he said.

Thailand has already imposed a law to protect trademarks. Patent protection is the next step, he said, adding Thai inventors would also benefit from protection.

Editorial Questions Peacekeeping Council's Power

BK0911120291 Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 9 Nov 91 p 3

[Editorial: "The Power of NPKC"]

[Text] There was a report in the newspapers that some people wanted the National Peacekeeping Council, or the NPKC in short, to return power to the people in order to bring back democracy to the country.

The NPKC is the offspring of a junta which initially called itself the National Peacekeeping Party when it staged a coup and took power on 23 February. The status of this junta was elevated to that of the NPKC under the Interim Charter issued on 1 March 1991.

The NPKC has genuine and absolute power vested to it under Articles 22-23 and Article 23 of the Interim Charter.

However, over the past eight months that it has been in power, the council never made use of that power, no matter by virtue of the NPKC or in conjunction with the government, despite the fact that NPKC members are top military officers from all branches of the armed forces, including the supreme commander, the army, navy, and air force chiefs, and the police director.

As far as we can remember, there was only once that the NPKC made use of its power, openly, in protecting the interest of the people. That was when it stopped the government from raising the toll fees collected by the Express Transit Authority. Anyway, that was only a temporary measure to delay the increase, but not to entirely prevent it. We could not think of other cases of the NPKC resorting to power either in dealing with the government or the people.

We therefore wonder in which manner the NPKC should return power to the people.

Coups d'etat have been staged in Thailand by the juntas of various names. After taking absolute power into their hands, the military juntas resorted to the power they had to restore law and order to the country. In fact, the purpose of a coup is to legalize the use of power.

Anyway, the coup staged by the NPKC is different from the previous coups. The NPKC did not use the power it has to solve the problems of the country and people. Once the coup was staged, the task was over. It is the most nonchalant coup that the Thai people ever experienced.

We therefore see no need to call upon the NPKC to return power to the people. The NPKC will automatically lose its power once a democratically elected government is installed.

And we are about to see the NPKC lose the power (it has never used) soon. There is no need therefore for anyone to hurt it by reclaiming that power back.

Columnist Criticizes Prime Minister's Performance

BK0811153791 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 7 Nov 91 p 8

[From "The Pracha Chun Bus Stop" Column by Aphisit Wetchachiwa]

[Summary] The Anan Panyarachun government will have about five more months to administer national affairs according to the interim constitution. "And if the upcoming general election is held as expected, in April 1992, this government will have only five more months in office. However, amidst rumors about conflicts between the government and the National Peacekeeping Council [NPKC], many people begin to anticipate that the age of this government may be shorter than that because the NPKC needs greater administrative power during the general elections and appointment of senators, who will be the power base for the next government."

The prime minister seems to be indifferent to news on his dismissal for two good reasons. "First, the change of government during this period will affect the country's image in the eyes of the international community because Prime Minister Anan has played a significant role in preserving the country's image, particularly through his speeches to foreign journalists and at the recent World Bank-IMF annual meeting." Second, the people and the mass media are satisfied with the prime minister's straightforwardness and transparency in administering national affairs. These two qualifications are good characteristics of this government.

However, the working style of the prime minister and his cabinet has changed since last month. Many parties have noted that the prime minister has changed because of heavy pressure. Someone said that he has changed because he has been carried away with his high position and success in delivering speeches. There are at least four issues causing the disapperance of the prime minister's straightforwardness and transparency. He has instead tried to stage a political farce in order to maintain a beautiful image of the government's performance.

The first issue is the conflict in the judiciary circle which developed over the past two months. Besides trying to avoid dealing directly with the problem, the prime minister has never tried to clear up the confusion. He just allows people in his government to use tactics and loopholes in the law to distort the intention of the law, which gives liberty to the judiciary institute.

The second issue is the prime minister's failure to make a clearcut decision regarding the proposal for a 90-day maternity leave.

The third issue is the transfer of the Assets Investigation Committee's power to the court. Although the transfer has been demanded by all parties concerned, the method of handling this issue reflects the change of the working style of the prime minister. The transfer of the assets investigation power is initiated by the NPKC and is suspected to be due to political bargaining between the NPKC and the Chat Thai party. But the prime minister said that the government made this decision because it would be fair for the politicians accused of unusual wealth. "Why does the prime minister conceal the facts? Moreover, the prime minister has said that the government will not interfere with the Assets Investigation Committee and the drafting of the constitution. However, he has changed his stand on the assets investigation. The prime minister said last Monday that it is unnecessary for the next prime minister to be elected, but he must be accepted by the National Assembly. It seems that he is willing to help increase the chances of the people who have the power to continue holding on to power, and he seems to be more willing to work for this group of people than before."

"The last issue is the drug patent draft bill. The prime minister has tried to explain that we should amend the drug patent law because we uphold the international rules, despite the fact that the present law does not violate the principles of the World Intellectual Property Organization [WIPO] and that the GATT has not yet completed the drafting of new rules on this issue. There are indications that the new rules to be drafted by the GATT will not be as strict as that in the revised patent act of Thailand. The strange thing is that all attempts to deny that the government has yielded to U.S. demands has become futile after the deputy commerce minister said after a cabinet meeting that he hoped the United States would be satisfied with the change." Moreover, when someone objected that the four-year grace period is shorter than the internationally-accepted period set by the WIPO and the GATT, the prime minister said that he would make the decision himself after seeking more information from all parties concerned. However, we have learned that the prime minister will side with the Commerce Ministry, which has agreed to comply with the United States Trade Representatives's demand for a much shorter period. The claim to seek more information is just a political game by the prime minister to ease opposition pressure.

"The prime minister's playing of political games by giving up his straightforwardness and transparency during this period is very dangerous because the NPKC is seeking opportunities to gain complete control of power. The best way to prevent this is not to create any conditions that they can use as reasons to seize power. The prime minister still has time to reconsider theses problems and to stop playing tactics in dealing with the issues like the Hopewell Group's elevated transport project, the judicial wrangle, the draft amendment to the drug patent law, and the maternity leave issue. He should take a correct path in dealing with these issues and explain facts straightforwardly to the public. If he does not take these measures as soon as possible, the unlucky month for Thailand's 18th prime minister may be November instead of October."

Vietnam

Hanoi Comments on U.S. Senate MIA Hearing

BK1211151791 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0015 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Duong Quang Minh commentary]

[Text] According to a VNA correspondent in the United States, the U.S. Senate's special committee in charge of the American POW and MIA issue held a hearing in early November at the capitol with the participation of many ranking officials of the U.S. Departments of Defense and State, including Defense Secretary Dick Cheney and many personalities who hold differing views on this issue, which the U.S. Government now considers a top priority.

According to Senator John Kerry, chairman of the commission, this hearing was held to find answers to a number of questions about U.S. servicemen missing in action during the Indochina war who are still unaccounted for.

In their testimonies before the commission, Defense Secretary Cheney and all other aides of U.S. President Bush in charge of the POW and MIA issue, such as General John Vessey and Assistant U.S. Secretary of State Kenneth Quinn and others, affirmed: The POW-MIA issue has now received great attention from the U.S. Government and people.

What was clearly prominent in this hearing was that, with its obsolete anti-Vietnam sentiment, the ultrarightist force in the United States is striving to cling to the POW-MIA issue as a trump card in their gamble to obstruct the normalization of U.S.-Vietnamese relations. At the hearing, they discussed the need to continue to apply pressure on Vietnam to compel it to cooperate more fully with the United States and provide more information on specific cases. In particular, they emphatically said that the pace and scope of the normalization of U.S.-Vietnamese relations should depend on the progress in resolving the question of U.S. POW's and MIA's.

Naturally, the atmosphere at the hearing was overtaken by those who welcomed the great effort Vietnam has made to cooperate with the United States on this issue. Right at the first session of the hearing, U.S. Defense Secretary Cheney analyzed various news reports on live Americans and affirmed that there was no compelling evidence that there are any living Americans still held captive in Vietnam. Mr. Cheney also said all the photos that were recently made public were fake. He criticized and condemned those who exploited the question of Americans missing in action for having spread false rumors for extortionary purposes, and he noted Vietnam's cooperation in solving this humanitarian problem.

Mr. John Vessey, the U.S. President's special envoy, also acknowledged Vietnam's positive cooperation and stated: There is no evidence with which we can conclude that there are U.S. prisoners still alive in Vietnam. Others asserted that, because Vietnam is so enthusiastic, the U.S. Government should normalize its relations with that country. This attitude is compatible with the progressive opinion that the U.S. public has demonstrated over the past year.

One can still recall that, last summer in the United States, miscreants concocted many stories to support the conjecture that there are living Americans still held captive in Vietnam. The result was that these miscreants themselves were unmasked by the U.S. public.

A spokesman for the Pentagon said: All the photos alleged to be of missing U.S. servicemen are bogus and were reproduced from a Soviet magazine. The U.S. television network NBC also said: The recently uncovered photos falsely portraying American servicemen have made U.S. investigators feel even more convinced that all the photos produced earlier were also fake. The U.S. President himself said in early August that there is no clear evidence that U.S. servicemen missing during the Vietnam war are still alive in Southeast Asia. He also condemned those who are trying to create false hopes for the families of U.S. servicemen missing in action.

In a commentary entitled: The Extortionary Trick Regarding the POW-MIA Issue, THE NEW YORK TIMES said: Taking advantage of the fragile hope of those American families with members missing in action during the Indochina war, some ill-intentioned individuals are striving to spread their lies and extort money by calling for the establishment of a U.S. POW-MIA fund.

At a hearing held in early November by the U.S. Senate special committee in charge of the POW-MIA issue, Vietnam's UN Ambassador Trinh Xuan Lang was invited to attend as an observer. In a statement made at the hearing, the Vietnamese ambassador had another chance to reaffirm Vietnam's stance that is is ready to cooperate with the U.S. side in its efforts to account for missing Americans. Now as always, we have emphatically pointed out that the U.S. POW-MIA issue is a humanitarian one. Vietnam no longer holds any Americans. Vietnam does not want to see the issue of American POW's and MIA's become a precondition for the normalization of U.S.-Vietnamese relations.

Soviet Ambassador Pledges Continued Support

BK1211103791 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Statement by Soviet Ambassador to Vietnam Khamidulin on the occasion of the 74th anniversary of Great October Socialist Revolution—recorded in Vietnamese; date not given]

[Summary] Dear Vietnamese friends: I am very happy to have the opportunity to speak to the Voice of Vietnam's listeners on the occasion of the Soviet people's national day. We commemorate this anniversary at a time when our country is undergoing many difficulties and ordeals, including an economic crisis, political unrest, and obstacles in carrying out our restructuring. I have realized that the Vietnamese people, with a profound sentiment toward the Soviet people, have closely monitored developments in the Soviet Union. As a result, I take this opportunity to thank the Vietnamese people for their sympathy with the Soviet people.

In the Soviet Union at present, we are striving to build a unified people's state that can ensure the freedom of its citizens, implement the economic convention signed recently by the leaders of various republics, and strengthen the activities of the new Supreme Soviet, thereby creating favorable conditions for developing and extricating the country from the current crisis.

"We are also implementing our new political thinking by turning tension into detente, confrontations into negotiations, and adversarial relationships into cooperative ones. We are ready to create favorable conditions to eliminate distrust among nations so as to stop wars and conflicts and bring happiness to mankind."

The Soviet Union has advocated the elimination of nuclear weapons and the liberation of mankind from the danger of a nuclear war, as demonstrated by its peace proposals on many occasions. The recent Soviet decision on eliminating strategic nuclear arms in response to the proposal made by U.S. President Bush has been welcomed by a wide segment of the world public.

"One of the forefront tasks of the Soviet Union now is to restore peace and security in Southeast Asia. As a nation covering areas in both Asia and Europe, the Soviet Union attaches much importance to creating an international atmosphere of peace in the Far East and Southeast Asia as well as in other regions. Our long-standing trusted friend in the region is, of course, Vietnam, the country that has significantly contributed to creating a healthy situation in the Asia-Pacific region.

"We support the efforts made by Vietnam and other Indochinese nations aimed at replacing conflicts with peace and security in Southeast Asia. It is necessary to say that Vietnam has significantly contributed to seeking a solution to end the conflict in Cambodia."

We in the Soviet Union, like Vietnam and other nations, hope that the resolution on Cambodia will usher in a new era of development in Southeast Asia, an era of peace, stability, and goodneighborliness that will contribute to restoring security in the Asia-Pacific region.

"Dear Vietnamese friends, in the Soviet Union as well as in Vietnam we always highly treasure loyal friendship. During the past decades, Soviet-Vietnamese cooperation has scored great achievements satisfactorily serving the interests of the Vietnamese and Soviet peoples."

In the new stage, I would like to ensure my Vietnamese friends that "the Soviet Union will unswervingly maintain its policy of friendship and cooperation with Vietnam and will strive to consolidate and develop the fine relations between the two countries.

"On this occasion, I wish the Vietnamese people new achievements in implementing the renovation undertaking and success in advancing toward new progress and prosperity.

"Thank you very much for your attention."

Vo Van Kiet Greets New Japanese Prime Minister

BK1211033691 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Text] SRV Council of Ministers Chairman Vo Van Kiet on 6 November sent a congratulatory message to His Excellency Miyazawa on the latter's appointment as Prime Minister of Japan.

The message says: On Your Excellency's appointment as Prime Minister of Japan, I convey to you my sincere congratulations. I hope the friendship and cooperation between Vietnam and Japan will be further consolidated and developed.

I wish Your Excellency good health, the Japanese nation prosperity, and the Japanese people happiness.

Meanwhile, Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam also sent a congratulatory message to His Excellency Watanabe on the latter's appointment as foreign minister of Japan.

Official: 'Radical' Economic Reform Necessary

OW1211085191 Tokyo KYODO in English 0821 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 12 KYODO—Vietnam should institute more radical reforms to bail the nation out of its economic crisis, a Vietnamese official said here Tuesday.

Ngo Van Hoa, deputy head of the Asia-Pacific research division of the Institute of International Relations, was speaking at the Foreign Correspondents' Club in Tokyo.

He said that Vietnam has adopted a new 10-year economic development strategy since political leaders there admitted that the economy was failing.

Hoa said Vietnam needs to promote export-oriented industrialization efforts to overcome economic difficulties, he said.

Hoa is currently in Japan as a guest of the Institute of Developing Economies.

Phan Van Khai Receives Indosuez Bank Official

BK1111131791 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] In response to an invitation from the Vietnam State Bank, a delegation from the Indosuez French bank, led by Mr. Pierre Strub, its first vice president, has paid our country a working visit.

Today, 5 November, Comrade Phan Van Khai, standing vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, received Mr. Pierre Strub. He welcomed the latter's visit to Vietnam and offered thanks for the assistance from the French Government in granting loans to Vietnam and in helping Vietnam establish normal relations with international financial organizations.

Comrade Phan Van Khai said that the French Government's assistance has created favorable conditions for the French banking sector and French companies investing in Vietnam, accelerating the future development of the Vietnamese economy.

On this occasion, he also informed Mr. Strub about the concessional areas for foreign investment in Vietnam. He also confirmed that the Indosuez Bank is making a positive contribution in Vietnam.

Mr. Strub briefed the vice chairman on the results of the working sessions held with the Vietnam State Bank and related agencies of Vietnam and the Indosuez Bank's future investement in Vietnamese projects. He also assured that the Indosuez Bank, together with foreign investors, will actively take part in investment concession projects in Vietnam.

Comrade Le Van Chau, assistant governor of the Vietnam State Bank, also attended the session.

Cao Bang Province Repairs Road Link With China

BK1211041491 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Text] To improve the transportation of goods and communications between the Vietnamese and Chinese people, Cao Bang Province—with assistance from the Ministry of Communications, Transportation and Post—has been upgrading and repairing various roads leading to the Chinese border since early this year.

On Highway 3A, the Cao Bang transport sector and the Ministry of Communications, Transportation, and Post have repaired and upgraded many sections of the road from Cao Bang City to the Tra Linh border gate and reconstructed the Ma Y Bridge to ensure safety for heavy trucks. The province has also repaired the 30-km road linking the Ma Phuc mountain pass with the Hoa Tap border gate in Quang Hoa District using the local budget.

Meanwhile, Quang Hoa district and the Chinese district of Nanchu, Guangxi Province, have jointly built a drawbridge recently for Vietnamese and Chinese peoples at the border area pending the construction of a permanent concrete bridge.

Joint-Gem Mining Firm Set Up With Thai Company

BK1211095991 Hanoi VNA in English 0557 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 12—The Viet-Thai precious stone company (a joint venture between three principals—Yen Bai Province's Industrial Sector Geologist Group, the Vietnam Precious Stone Company under the Ministry of Heavy Industry, and B.H. Mining Co. Ltd. of Thailand) officially comes into operation on November 12 under the auspices of the State Committee for Cooperation and Investment. The managing board is chaired by Mr. Nguyen Thiep, a representative of Yen Bai Province with Mr. Chuthai Saengthawip as vice-chairman and many other members from Vietnam and Thailand.

The joint venture has a prescribed capital of U.S.$2 million and will be operational for 12 years. The profits will be divided as follows:

For the first five years, 20 percent is to go to each of the Yen Bai Province Industrial Sector Geologist Group and the Vietnam Precious Stone Company, while 60 percent is to go to the Thai company. But over the next five years, 25 percent is to go to each of the Yen Bai group and the Vietnam Precious Stone Company, with 50 percent going to the Thai company.

Libyan Delegation Arrives for Sci-Tech Meeting

Honors Ho Chi Minh

BK1111071391 Hanoi VNA in English 0553 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov 11—Libya has post-humously conferred its highest distinction, the al-Fatah Order, on the late President Ho Chi Minh on the occasion of his birth centenary.

The order was handed over in Hanoi on November 10 to National Assembly Chairman Le Quang Dao, who is also vice president of the State Council, by Health Minister Zaydan Badr Zaydan [title as received], who is empowered by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Social People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

Speaking at a ceremony held at the Presidential Place in Hanoi, the Libyan official, who is here for a meeting of the Vietnam-Libya Commission for Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation, said the conferment was made in recognition of President Ho Chi Minh's outstanding contributions to the national liberation movement in the world and it was a manifestation of the traditional friendship between the Libyan and Vietnamese peoples.

Present at the ceremony, among others were Vice Chairman of the Council of Ministers Phan Van Khai, General Secretary of the State Council Nguyen Viet Dung, Minister of Construction Ngo Xuan Loc, Vice Foreign Minister Dinh Nho Liem, Deputy Head of the Party Central Committee's External Relations Commission Trinh Ngoc Thai .

Mr. Zaydan was received on November 9 by Vice Chairman of the Council of Ministers Phan Van Khai, who thanked the Libyan Government and people for their help to the Vietnamese people's struggle for national liberation and construction. He also expressed his hope that the Libyan official's visit would contribute to the expansion of the multi-sided and effective cooperation between the two countries as well as to the struggle for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress in the world.

Present on the occasion were Minister of Construction Ngo Xuan Loc and the Libyan Charge d'Affaires A.I. Mr. 'Abd-al-Majid Nawalli.

Signs Cooperation Accord

BK1111155591 Hanoi VNA in English 1419 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov 11—The fourth session of the Vietnam-Libya Commission for Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation was held here from Nov. 6-9.

It was attended by Ngo Xuan Loc, minister of construction and head of the Vietnamese section of the said commission, Le Kim Lang, vice-minister of commerce and Dr. Zaydan Badr Zaydan, secretary of the General People's Committee for Public Health and head of the Libyan delegation.

The two sides reviewed the implementation of the memoranda of the third session and expressed satisfaction at the continued development of the friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries. They expressed determination to expand and strengthen their multiform cooperation.

A memorandum on cooperation in goods exchange, investment, science, culture, education, labour and experts was signed on Nov. 9 by Minister of Construction Ngo Xuan Loc and Dr. Zaydan Badr Zaydan.

The Libyan economic delegation has paid a tribute to President Ho Chi Minh at his mausoleum. It was received by Le Quang Dao, vice- president of the State Council and chairman of the National Assembly, and Vice Premier Phan Van Khai.

Dr. Zaydan Badr Zaydan had a meeting with Vietnamese Health Minister Pham Song. The Libyan delegation left for home on Nov. 10.

Agreement With Afghan Journalist Association

BK0811124591 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Text] On 5 November evening in Hanoi, Comrade Tran Cong Minh, standing vice secretary of the Vietnamese Journalists Association signed an agreement on cooperation for the 1991-1995 period between the Vietnamese and Afghan Journalists Associations with Muhamad Isma'il Mashhur, Afghan ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Vietnam. The Afghan ambassador is entrusted by the Afghan Journalists Association to sign the agreement.

The agreement signing ceremony was witnessed by Comrade Huu Tho, deputy director of the Party Central Ideology and Culture Department and representatives from the Office of the Council of Ministers, Foreign Ministry, SRV Central Foreign Relations Department, and many mass media agencies.

According to the agreement, the two sides will exchange news information, working and personnel management experience, and the two sides will enhance the relations between Vietnamese and Afghan pressmen.

Council of Ministers Discusses Tasks for 1992

BK1211104591 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Text] From 29 to 31 October, the Council of Ministers met to discuss socioeconomic tasks and the state budget for 1992 under the chairmanship of Comrade Phan Khai, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers' standing body.

The Council of Ministers unanimously noted that 1991 has been a year full of difficulties and ordeals for our country's economy, especially unforeseen difficulties due to serious natural disasters in many vast areas and complex changes in the situation in a number of regions in the world.

However, thanks to the success in developing the positive aspects of the new mechanism of management and the richer experience in leadership over work performance, numerous difficulties have been eliminated and suitable guidelines have been set forth, enabling the economy to remain relatively stable. And as a result, the sociopolitical situation has been stabilized.

Agricultural production, although gravely affected by natural disasters, remains at the same level as in 1990, thus ensuring sufficient grain for domestic consumption and export as well as for maintaining stable grain prices.

Industrial production—including that at the central level which has been suspended for the past four years—has begun to increase over last year.

The exchange of goods between various regions in the country has been stepped up more vigorously. Despite a major market upheaval, thanks to the adoption of more effective and energetic measures, export and import plans have all been fulfilled, thereby ensuring all the imperative needs for production in the country.

State Approves Economic Use of Atomic Energy

BK1311090191 Hanoi VNA in English 0552 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 13—Vietnam has approved a national programme on the use of atomic energy in various areas of the national economy.

The programme sponsored by the National Institute of Atomic Energy includes the safe operation of the Dalat nuclear reactor, production of radioisotopes in service of public health, agriculture and industry, manufacture of (?low-price) nuclear electronic applicants, and application of atomic energy technology in agriculture, biology, medicine and industry.

'Record' Rice Harvest in Northern Province

BK1211100191 Hanoi VNA in English 0553 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 12—Farmers in the Red River delta province of Thai Binh have brought in a record harvest of 436,500 tons of paddy from 85,600 hectares in the recent autumn rice crop, averaging 5.1 tons of unhusked rice per hectare.

The yield represents an increase of 1.2 tons per hectare over the same crop last year. Leading were Dong Ha and Dong Hung Districts with many farmer households getting 6.5-7 tons of paddy per hectare. The bumper crop resulted from favourable weather and the introduction of high-yield rice varieties.

Tan Son Nhat Airport Terminal Upgrade Continues

BK0811155591 Hanoi VNA in English 1515 GMT 8 Nov 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 8—Tan Son Nhat, the biggest international airport in the country, will be able to handle 1.5 million passengers a year when extension work on the overcrownded terminal comes to an end sometime next year.

At present, the most it can do is to serve only 300,000 passengers a year.

Efforts to enlarge and upgrade the airport, started about two years ago, are made in anticipation of a growing number of foreign business people and tourist purposes as well as an increase in domestic flights.

Part of a total investment of 2.5 million will go into adding 3,700 more square meters to the existing floor space of 11,000 sqare Meters. In addition, all reception and waiting halls will be refurbished and provided with electronic equipment for the comfort and convenience of passengers.

Constructors expect costs to rise sharply as the upgrading and overhaul call for radical changes in the original architecture of the terminal first built by the French and later added with new wings during the Vietnam war.

Moreover, as most of the original blueprints have been lost, much money has already gone into new surveys.

Tan Son Nhat was the busiest airport in the whole of Southeast Asia during the 1954-1975 Vietnam War.

Radio Carries General's Article on Socialism

Highlights Subjective Conditions

BK0811085991 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2330 GMT 3 Nov 91

["First" of two installments of article by Lieutenant General Le Kha Phieu, director of VPA Political General Department: "Firmly and Confidently Continue Advancing Along the Chosen Path," published in November issue of TAP CHI QUOC PHONG TOAN DAN]

[Text] Whether the Vietnamese people can or cannot continue to advance along the socialist path—the path asserted by the Seventh Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Congress as a sole, correct path—in the current crisis experienced by socialism in the world, especially the complex situation in the Soviet Union, land of the October Revolution, is the question raised by many people at present. There are many options in carrying out political activities, class struggle, and fierce national struggle, but the final path will be determined by the law of history. Subjectively, when men actively and creatively act in accordance with the objective law, they will be able to refrain from bad consequences and achieve their aspirations. On this basis, we may answer the abovementioned question by saying that the Vietnamese people must continue to advance along the socialist path which was chosen by them. Although the difficulties are numerous, the Vietnamese people still have favorable subjective and objective conditions for fulfilling the goal of constructing a prosperous and strong nation and triumphantly building and firmly defending the socialist Vietnamese fatherland.

The Vietnamese people are determined to continue to advance along the socialist path because it is the path that ensures true independence for the Vietnamese nation, as testified by half a century of revolutionary struggle against cruel enemies for national liberation. This is the path that will bring about a bright future and prospects for the Vietnamese people, in which everyone can enjoy a bountiful life, a right to education, and a right to live in accordance with the aspirations of the laboring people and Vietnamese patriots—the ideal goal of our cadres and party members. It is necessary to mention here that the close association between national independence and socialism is still the law of the modern era, although the development of this law may be misleading to a number of people that could result in the whole nation being misled. The Vietnamese people are determined to resolutely reject capitalism which is fraught with unjustice, or in other words, the system of wealth and control of the minority of the rich over the majority of poor laboring people, or the system of enslaving exploitation of the large group of backward nations by a small number of developed nations. It can be said that not only history but also the reality of capitalism have disappointed those who inclusively believed in the system. It is noteworthy that denunciations against capitalism have often been made right within the developed capitalist nations themselves. As a result, capitalism is obviously not the best and final solution for mankind. Socialism and communism will undoubtedly replace capitalism, as did the latter to feudalism due to the internal factors of the development of capitalism in accordance with the law of history, which may run counter to some people's subjective aspirations.

What are the subjective and objective conditions that allow us to believe that the Vietnamese people will triumphantly build and firmly defend their beloved socialist Vietnamese fatherland? The following points, taken together, may provide an answer to this question.

First, the Vietnamese people have a several thousand-year history of unyielding and unshakable traditional struggle to build, defend, and salvage their nation in acutely dangerous conditions. The Vietnamese people were not forced to be assimilated with other societies or evacuated to other nations. Vietnam did undergo a long period of being subjugated, but finally it regained independence and freedom and survived and developed as a nation with unique and dignified characteristics.

This lofty tradition has developed to a new level in the present stage thanks to the leadership of the CPV and President Ho Chi Minh, as testified by historic victories in our era. The August Revolution, the wars of resistance against the French and U.S. imperialists, and the heroic and intelligent struggle to defeat the strong, cruel aggressive enemies of the 20th century.

It is undeniable that the international situation during the past half a century was in favor of our people's struggle, especially the great support and assistance provided to us by revolutionary movements in the world, mostly from socialist countries. However, if we did not make our utmost efforts, if we did not know how to chiefly rely on our strength to advance from a poor and backward nation, we might fail to optimally make use of the epochal, favorable conditions to turn our weaknesses into powerful strengths to gain victories.

Today, when favorable conditions no longer exist as previously in the international situation, more than ever before we should uphold all the higher our national pride, independence, sovereignty, self-reliance, and warm patriotism in the struggle to extricate our country from poverty and backwardness, to advance our nation up to the par of advanced nations in the world, and to criticize all manifestations of inferiority complexes, pessimism, and vacillation.

Second, our party's socialist renovation line has been demonstrated as correct by realities over the past few years since the sixth party congress. This line was supplemented and further developed at the seventh party congress. It result from our creative ability to develop and apply Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh thought to the conditions and circumstances in our country and today's world in combination with our acquisition of the latest intellectual achievements of mankind and to summarize the latest experiences of socialist countries.

Our party resolves to overcome all manifestations of dogmatism, subjectivism, and voluntarism. The previous errors in socialist construction have led to serious socioeconomic crises in our country. At the same time, we definitively criticize deviations from the fundamental principles of Marxism-Leninism in renovation, reorganization, and reform in a certain country which drove socialism into an even more serious crisis towards final collapse.

The correct revolutionary line of our party during the national democratic revolution brought about glorious victories. Now, the correctness of viewpoints and steps which we have adopted in our socialist revolution are the most fundamental guarantees for us to eliminate possible evils in order to continually advance the socialist revolution in our country.

Our party and state have anticipated the worst situations likely to happen here and there in the world, and have actually established plans to cope with them not only politically, ideologically, and theoretically, but also materially. Evidently, from the material standpoint, the guarantee is still minimal. There should be outstanding efforts and extremely intelligent creative input from all our party members, people, and troops to resolve the problems, and it is certain that we can resolve them.

Our party is renewing and readjusting itself to fulfill its historical mission. It has combined theoretical research with summarizing realities generally, has constantly supplemented and perfected its lines and policies, and has continually renovated its leadership procedures to always keep its role as an advisory staff of the working class and a vanguard political force of the nation. It has enhanced qualitatively the contingent of its members, resolutely overcome bureaucratism, authoritarianism, and arbitrariness which violates the people's right to mastery, and has opposed corruption, privileges, and prerogatives. We should sternly maintain the principle of democratic centralization and firmly preserve solidarity and unity of the party. The party is the main factor that decides the victory of the revolution. The recent defeat of socialism in some countries stemmed from erroneous lines and internal division of the communist parties and was caused by outside hostile forces' subversion.

Therefore, protecting the revolution and defending the country and socialism is primarily to protect the party, its correct leadership, and its solidarity and unity.

Third, our warmly patriotic people who have been forged for many decades in the revolutionary struggle possess steady and very alert political ability. The laboring people in our country have singlemindedly followed the party and belived in the socialist regime, even though our party committed some shortcomings and mistakes. Socialism in our country is rife with shortcomings. Following the correct renovation line of the party, our people have scored very important initial achievements in gradually restoring the people's confidence in the party leadership and the country's adopted path.

The antithetical lesson learned from some socialist countries has made the cadres, party members, and laboring people in our country even more persevering in the socialist line. Some people who vacillated, were confused, and were entranced by capitalism have also gradually come to their senses. They are fed up by the democratic game by some demagogic persons in a certain country, who deceive the masses out of their own political ambitions. Nobody wants such an unprecedented chaos and the increasingly difficult livelihood endured by the laboring people in some countries where the socialist regime has just collapsed.

All ordinary people want to have political stability in order to earn their living. They remain vigilant against the deceitful psychological warfare maneuvers by all hostile and villainous forces—who usually take advantage off the mistakes and shortcomings of our party, state, cadres, and party members, especially concerning the issues of democracy, livelihood, nationalities and religions—to oppose and attack us, and create and develop the destabilizing factors which we must not overlook. Building political bases among the masses, resolutely defeating all subversive maneuvers by the enemy and villains, and restoring and strengthening the blood-and-flesh relationship between the party and the people in the main constitute the most fundamental issues that allow us to continually advance on the chosen path.

Emphasizes Defense, Construction Links

BK0811162191 Hanoi Voice of Vietnamese Network in Vietnamese 2330 GMT 4 Nov 91

["Second" of two installments of article by Lieutenant General Le Kha Phieu, Director of VPA Political General Department: "Firmly and Confidently Continue Advancing Along the Chosen Path," published in November issue of TAP CHI QUOC PHONG TOAN DAN]

[Text] Fourth, after many years of war for national liberation, our people have regained independence and freedom and have successfully built for themselves a fortune as it is today. It is not that we are now moving forward empty-handed but rather armed with certain political, spiritual, and material assets at our disposal. The new social system with its built-in strong points and shortcomings has been gradually built from the infrastructure up to the superstructure as seen through the shaping up of the political, party, and administrative systems at all levels, the people's armed forces, and mass organizations. All of these systems, together with our economic, material, and technical bases, grass-roots establishments, and all the wisdom and experience accumulated, have served as a support and also the starting point for our people to continue to march forward.

Initiated by our party, the national renovation policy has helped unleash those latent forces which have long been constrained in a irresponsible manner. It has also helped generate new momentum for the cause of national construction and defense. A problem now facing us is how to translate the correct resolutions of the seventh party congress into life and to develop all the latent potentials of the people and the country in order to promptly tide ourselves over the current socioeconomic crisis, continue to maintain political stability, foil all the enemy's perfidious schemes, firmly safeguard peace, and protect our people's peaceful labor for national construction.

In our current historic mandate to build our own future, it is necessary for us to always closely link national construction with national defense and associate economic construction with national defense and security. The people's armed forces, namely the People's Army, have a heavy yet glorious duty of defending the fatherland, protecting the socialist system, consolidating national defense and security, and taking part in economic construction.

Fifth, given the current international situation, our people's new struggle will have both difficulties and advantages. At a time when the enemy is acting more gleefully and aggressively, a number of people who could see only our difficulties—such as the disintegration of the socialist system, the crumbling of certain socialist countries, the lose of our longtime political, spiritual, and material sources of support, including international price subsidies—have worried about whether or not we can stand firmly on our own feet and can muster enough conditions to continue to march forward. This is not the case. Looking back in history, we can see that in 1917, following the October Revolution, a backward Russia and other republics, while being encircled and frenziedly interfered with by imperialism, needed only about two decades to regain independence and successfully build a powerful Soviet Union, the strength of which was directly reflected in the success of their great national defense of 1941-45.

The international situation now faced by our country in its socialist revolution is not like what was encountered by Russia at that time; imperialism is now no longer a ruling system of our entire planet. Although the world socialist system has been destroyed and the socialist system in certain countries has crumbled, there still remians a number of socialist countries which are in the process of reform and renovation in order to reassert their own positions and continue to develop. The hope for the success of socialism and communism has been deep-rooted in the hearts of many working people. They will never forget that socialism has brought them freedom and has liberated them from the shackles of enslavement.

The victory of nationalist movements in over 100 nations as seen through the varying degrees of their independence has destroyed a large chunk of the imperialist system. Some of these countries have vacilliated over the path of socialist development in the face of the crisis of the socialist world. However, the growing trend of independence and sovereignty has, from this, increased further.

Faced with difficulties caused by the collapse of certain socialist countries and their reversion back to capitalism, many Third-World countries have drawn a lesson from this and have sought a way toward noncapitalist development.

The new scientific and technological revolution, which has led to unprecedented growth in production forces, has further deepened the inherent differences within contemporary capitalism, and has therefore quickened the inevitable process of negating the capitalist system and advancing the revolution to socialism.

The new scientific and technological revolution has also spurred the internationalization of the world economy, thus changing the world into a integrated system of big and small nations which are interrelated and interdependent. Not only should small and less-developed nations depend on big and developed countries, but the latter should also do likewise. All nations—be they large or small, developed or backward—should maintain close relations with one another and should carry on their struggles and mutual cooperation if they are to make progress.

With the correct line of renewal in foreign relations both politically and economically, our people are now fully able to exploit the abovementioned favorable international conditions, in order to improve and ensure national security and consolidate peace. Naturally, faced with the complexity of this struggle, we will have to pay for the price of development. But we, with our intelligence, dynamism, and creativity, will strive to gain successes while paying the least price for development.

Our Vietnamese people wish to coexist peacefully and befriend all nations, near and far—even with those countries with different social systems—and to firmly maintain their national pride in their peaceful relations of cooperation for development with all communities of nations in the world, while heightening vigilance against all of the enemy's sabotage and aggressive schemes.

Realities of the past have shown that the enemy has always sought to violate our fatherland's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity and to undermind our people's socialist system with the use of all military, political, economic, psychological, espionage, and decadent lifestyle-related tricks. However, our people and army have, one after another, foiled all these schemes and tricks.

Led by the party and holding high the banner of Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh's thought, our people should, under all circumstances, always remain steady and confident to move along our chosen socialist path.

Dao Dinh Luyen at Technology Institute Ceremony

BK0811161191 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1300 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Text] A solemn ceremony was held by the Institute of Military Technology recently to mark its traditional day and to receive the Independence Order, third class, awarded by the Council of State on the occasion of its 30th founding anniversary.

Attending the ceremony were Senior Lieutenant General Dao Dinh Luyen, member of the party Central Committee and chief of the Vietnam People's Army General Staff; Comrade Tran Hong Quan, minister of Education and Training; and representatives from various departments and sectors at the central and local levels, organs of the Ministry of National Defense, and many military regions, army corps, and armed services. Also present were representatives of the units that have maintained contacts with the institute in various aspects of work and a large number of its cadres, teachers, students, combatants, workers, and personnel.

Addressing the ceremony, Colonel Professor Nguyen Hoa Thinh, director of the institute, highlighted the achievements recorded by the intitute over the past 25 years in training military technical cadres and conducting scientific research in support of work related to the development of the army and national construction.

Comrade Dao Dinh Luyen pinned the Independence Order on the institute's determined-to-win military banner. In his speech, Comrade Dao Luyen said: Faced with the needs arising from the task of building a modern regular army, the Institute of Military Institute must continue bringing into the play the achievements it has recorded and further improve the quality of training and scientific reasearch in the direction of combining economic work closely with the national defense task and vice versa.

Party Leaders Attend Peasant Association Meeting

BK1011100591 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 4

[Text] The Central Executive Committee of the Vietnam Peasants Association held a meeting in Hanoi recently to review the association's work and peasant movements in the country this year and to define the association's tasks through the end of this year.

Comrade Vu Oanh, member of the party Political Bureau; Nguyen Khanh, member of the party Central Committee and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; and Truong My Hoa, secretary of the party Central Committee, attended the meeting.

Being a broad social political organization of the peasant class, the Vietnam Peasants Association has tried to renew the content and method of its work in the past. The association has implemented the Good Production Peasant movement, helped poor peasants, implemented a family planning program and an illiteracy eradication program, among other achievements. The association has helped improve the living standard of peasants in the rural areas.

The meeting also studied the basic concepts of the seventh national party congress documents, especially issues concerning peasants, rural areas, and agriculture. In addition, the participants discussed ways to apply party resolutions to peasant life.

Speaking at the meeting, Comrade Vu Oanh and Nguyen Khanh hailed the efforts of the association branches and the peasant movements in the country. They also pointed out practical duties so that the association can fulfill its function as a foundation for the peasant class and a link between the peasants and the party. They also reminded the association to educate the peasants to implement the party and state's lines and policies, as well as to improve production in order to build new rural areas.

The Executive Committee also discussed ways to organize the association's second national meeting.

VNA Reviews Hanoi Newspapers for 12 Nov

BK1211100891 Hanoi VNA in English 0546 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 12—The press here today reports on Premier Vo Van Kiet's sympathies to the Philippine people over the big losses in lives and property caused by the recent Typhoon Thelma.

The papers frontpage the high appreciation of the final results of the high-level Vietnamese delegation's China visit by the party Political Bureau, the State Council, and the Council of Ministers.

They further report on the Indian Embassy's two million VN [Vietnamese] dong donation to the 'Golden Heart' Society as emergency aid to flood victims in Vietnam, on the signing here Nov. 9 of a memorandum on cooperation in goods exchange, investment, science, culture, education, labour, and experts between Vietnamese Minister of Construction Ngo Xuan Loc and Libyan Minister of Public Health Dr. Zayden Badr Zayden, and on an international seminar here Nov. 9-10 on 'climate change and sea-level rise impacts' under the co-sponciations and the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP).

The Council of Ministers on Nov. 7 issued regulations on the assessment of foreign investment projects in Vietnam, the papers say adding that the Second Indochinese Conference on Geology was opened here today. In this connection, NHAN DAN says that so far this year 24 scientific projects have been applied to the mining industry, yielding more than 800,000 million V.N. dong.

Economic news reports say that 780 families with a total of 4,000 people in the densely-populated Red River Delta province of Thai Binh have moved to new settlements in the central highlands provinces of Lam Dong and Darlac, and Quang Ninh Province.

National Defense Journal for Nov '91 Reviewed

BK0811125791 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2330 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Summary] The following is an introduction to the main contents of the November 1991 issue of TAP CHI QUOC PHONG TOAN DAN:

The journal begins with an important article titled "Firmly and Confidentially Continue Advancing on the Chosen Path" by Lieutenant General Le Kha Phieu, director of the VPA General Political Department. The article points out the reasons why Vietnam will succeed in fulfilling the ideals of socialism.

Next comes an article titled "Some Fundamental Viewpoints of the Seventh Party Congress Concerning the Task of Maintaining National Security in the New Stage" by Bui Thien Ngo, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and minister of Interior. "The article touches on a number of fundamental viewpoints concerning the task of maintaining national security in the new stage, which were expounded at the seventh party congress."

On the occasion of the anniversary of the Great October Russian Revolution, the journal carries an article titled "The October Path—the Trend of Our Time" by Le Bang, holder of a master's degree in philosophy. The article affirm that despite its current setbacks, "the October path will still and certainly be affirmed by history as the inevitable trend of development of our time."

The journal also marks the 35th founding anniversary of the Cuban revolutionary armed forces with an article titled "Thirty Five Years of Struggle and Victory" by Lieutenant Colonel Miguel Sal Martin Torriente [name as heard], naval and air force attache to the Cuban Embassy in Vietnam. "The article asserts the inflexible determination of the Cuban Army and people to safeguard the great achievements they have recorded under the banner of socialism." This is follwed by:

—"Article: 'The Social Class Structure in the Period of Translation and Some Reflections on Building the Armed Forces Politically' by Professor Tran Xuan Truong;

—"Article: 'Looking at Arms Production from an Angle of Self- Reliance' by Le Van Chieu; and

—"Article: 'Z-113, a Model of National Defense Factory that is Doing Business with Success under the New Mechanism' by Nguyen Dinh Lieu."

Found in the "Vietnam's Military Theory and the Party's Military Line—Study and Exchange Views" section are:

—"Article: 'A Well-trained Army is more Necessary than a Vast Army—Our Nation's Traditional Viewpoint in Building the Army of Our Nation' by Le Dinh Sy;

—"Article: 'Let's Try to Discuss the Rapid-Deployment Force in the Composition of the Vietnamese People's Armed Forces' by Nguyen Te Nhi; and

—"Article: 'Let's Discuss Further About Defending and Countering High-Precision Weapons' by Hoang Quoc Su, holder of a Master Degree in Military Science.

Australia

State Imposes 'Range of Sanctions' on Yugoslavia

BK1311093491 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0900 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] The Australian Government has imposed a range of sanctions on Yugoslavia (?and supported the) European decision to exempt republics in the federation that cooperate with peace efforts.

The measures include (?removing) preferential tariff treatment for Yugoslav goods and the decision not to sign a double taxation agreement with Yugoslavia. Canberra announced earlier this week that it will follow the European Community move on sanctions.

'Deep Concern' Expressed on East Timor Killings

BK1311032291 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0300 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Australia has registered deep concern at reports that Indonesian soldiers have fired on a crowd of civilians in the East Timorese capital, Dili, killing up to 50 people. The Indonesian ambassador to Australia, Sabam Siagian, was called in to the Foreign Affairs Department in Canberra for a meeting with the head of the Asia Division, Dr. Ashton Calvert.

Foreign affairs spokesman said Dr. Calvert has asked for urgent information from Indonesia on reports that between 20 and 50 East Timorese have been killed in a shooting yesterday. Mr. Siagian had said during the meeting that he understood the incident had been caused by an attack on the commanding officer of the military unit at the scene.

Australia had called on Indonesia to conduct a thorough investigation and publish a full and factual account of what had happened. It had said that if the inquiry confirmed serious breaches of human rights, then those responsible should be dealt with.

After the meeting, Mr. Siagian expressed regret for both the civilian victims of the shootings and also the security forces. He said the matter was being investigated and he expected a statement to be made by the Indonesian Government later today.

Australia's foreign minister, Senator Gareth Evans, plans to raise the matter with his Indonesian counterpart, Ali Alatas, in the South Korean capital, Seoul, where the two are attending a meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation group.

Australia's prime minister, Bob Hawke is expected to make a statement in parliament today on the shootings. The United States has also called for full and prompt investigation by the Indonesian authorities and the United Nations secretary general, Javier Perez de Cuellar, has deplored a loss of innocent lives.

Hawke Asks Jakarta To Examine East Timor Riot

BK1311055291 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Excerpts] Australia has registered deep concern at reports that Indonesian soldiers have fired on a crowd of civilians in the East Timorese capital, Dili, killing up to 50 people. [passage omitted]

The Australian prime minister, Bob Hawke, has told parliament the government was very deeply disturbed by what he called the tragedy in Dili, and deplored the loss of innocent life. He said Australia's concerns are being conveyed through diplomatic channel and the prime minister explained that while many details remained unclear it was evident there were many casualties.

[Begin Hawke recording] It is now learned that an appalling tragedy has occurred in which many people have been killed. The Indonesian ambassador has been called through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade this morning and the Australian ambassador in Jakarta has been instructed to call on the authorities in Jakarta.

Through these channels, Mr. Speaker, I can say this, that we have asked the Indonesian Government to (?issue) information about what exactly happened in Dili yesterday. We have urged the Indonesian Government to conduct a thorough investigation and publish a full and factual account of what happened and why, and we have said that we expect that those responsible for breach of human rights should be appropriately dealt with. [end recording]

Mr. Hawke also said he had asked Foreign Minister Gareth Evans to discuss the matter with his Indonesian counterpart, Ali Alatas.

Fiji

State Cuts Tariffs To Attract Foreign Investors

BK1311095791 Hong Kong AFP in English 0940 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Nadi, Fiji, Nov 13 (AFP)—Fiji will cut tariffs and remove import controls as part of sweeping economic incentives unveiled by Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara at a trade forum here Wednesday. Mara told 250 overseas and local investors at the Fiji Investment and Trade Forum his government will lower barriers to to investment and trade as Fiji restructures its economy.

He said his government hoped to infuse "dynamism, variety and efficiency" in the economy by adopting more outward looking policies and looking for new markets. "We're no longer content to hide behind high tariff barriers, nor to accept the constraints of our small domestic market," Mara said.

Exports destined for Australia and New Zealand are falling while the European, North American and Southeast Asian markets are becoming important, he said. Mara said the government had found success with its tax-free investment scheme, launched in 1988 to lure foreign entreprenuers after the 1987 coups.

Some 113 firms invested under the 13-year tax holiday scheme and their exports hit 200 million Fiji dollars (140 million U.S.) last year. As a result, economic growth jumped from minus seven percent in 1987 in the wake of the coups to 12 percent in 1989. "I would like to assure you that while the tax-free scheme may be the most evident sign of our new economic policies, it is only the tip of the iceberg," Mara said at the start of the four-day forum.

He cited lowering tariff rates and fiscal duties—currently 40 percent on most imports—and removing licence controls which apply to agriculture goods and licence protection. "The government has been phasing out price controls on many items and concentrating on providing a stable macro-economic climate for our business sector," Mara said.

He said Fiji's economic policies were geared to reducing reliance on sugar exports and tourism and bolstering the manufacturing sector. Other highlights of Mara's address included the introduction of a Value Added Tax (VAT) next July, with lower income and company taxes, and a proposed expansion of air links with Southeast Asia, South America and North America.

New Zealand

Premier 'Disturbed' by East Timor Shootings

BK1311033691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0328 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] Wellington, Nov 13 (AFP)—Prime Minister Jim Bolger said Wednesday he was disturbed by reports of shootings in East Timor and concerned about a New Zealander who was wounded in the incident. The New Zealand Embassy in Jakarta is in contact with local authorities to ensure that the New Zealander receives proper care, he said in an interview, without naming the national.

Bolger said New Zealand was disturbed by reports that Indonesian troops fired Tuesday on an unarmed crowd of mourners in Dili, capital of East Timor, killing dozens of people, "especially as a New Zealander was among those seriously hurt." The embassy in Jakarta "is also seeking an explanation from the Indonesians to establish precisely what took place," he said.

New Zealand and Indonesia enjoy close ties. Military officials from Indonesia recently visited here to discuss closer military cooperation. Bolger's government has seldom condemned events in other countries, and public reaction usually focusses on any New Zealanders involved and the likely impact on trade.

Papua New Guinea

Police Go on 'Rampage' Over Housing Allotments

BK1211055891 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Police in the Papua New Guinea capital, Port Moresby, have gone on a rampage destroying property, smashing doors and windows, and overturning garbage cans to protest against housing allocations.

The official National Broadcasting Commission reports that police have set up a road block and cordon barracks, blocking entry until their grievances have been settled. The protest centered on the way houses in the South Pacific Games village have been allocated to the police.

The protesters say some officers already have housing at the barracks and are being given second homes at the village.

Rebels Warn Red Cross Not To Fly PNG Flag

BK1211072591 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] A member of Bougainville's breakaway regime says there could be trouble if the Red Cross flies the Papua New Guinea [PNG] national flag on ships it uses to carry supplies to the island. PNG last week said the Red Cross could again travel to Bougainville on condition that it flew the country's flag.

(Bishop Zail), who is health minister in the self-styled interim government, says flying the flag is inviting trouble from the Bougainville Revolutionary Army and supplies could be rejected. He says the Red Cross is a neutral body and flying the PNG flag could be seen to be supporting Port Moresby against the Bougainville secessionists.

Solomon Islands

Foreign Minister Quits To Head Fisheries Agency

BK1111071691 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] Solomon Islands' minister for foreign affairs and trade, Sir Peter Kenilorea, has left politics to become director of the South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency in Honiara.

Sir Peter entered parliament in 1976. He took Solomon Islands into independence in 1978 and became the country's first prime minister. Sir Peter was leader of the opposition from 1981 to 1984 and then became prime minister again. As director of the South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency, Sir Peter replaces Mr. (Phillip Marlowe) of Western Samoa, who has been with the agency for over 10 years.

EC To Fund Compensation for Export Losses

BK1111080691 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] Solomon Islands is to receive $9.4 million [currency not further specified] from the European Community as compensation in losses incurred in the export of cocoa, copra, and palm oil. The funds will not be available for direct budgetary support but are to be used to benefit producers who suffered losses in the export of the three commodities during 1988 and 1990.

The PAC NEWS service says programs being considered include price support for growers, [word indistinct] research, and capital work aimed at improving the marketing and transport of the goods.